

2019-20

Annual Report

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
LATIN AMERICAN & IBERIAN INSTITUTE



Table of Contents

About the LAII	3
Letter from the Director	4
Latin American Studies at UNM	6
Latin American Studies at CNM	18
Student Research & Awards	20
Faculty Research & Awards	23
Academic Lectures	25
K-12 Educational Outreach	28
Our People	29

About the LAII



Because of the geographic location and unique cultural history of New Mexico, The University of New Mexico (UNM) has emphasized Latin American Studies since the early 1930s. In 1979, the Latin American & Iberian Institute (LAII) was founded to coordinate Latin American programs on campus. The LAII promotes and supports interdisciplinary teaching, research and meaningful public engagement to advance the production and dissemination of knowledge about Latin America and Iberia. Latin America is designated as one of seven priority areas of research for UNM and the LAII has proudly contributed to the university's intellectual community as well as global discourse throughout its 40-year history.

The LAII offers academic degrees, supports research, and provides development opportunities for faculty. In addition to the Latin American Studies (LAS) degrees offered, the Institute supports Latin Americanists in departments and professional schools by awarding student fellowships and providing funds for faculty and curriculum development. The LAII is also committed to expanding awareness, knowledge, and understanding of Latin America and Iberia among diverse constituents through its community education programs and outreach initiatives.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW
MEXICO HAS EMPHASIZED
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
SINCE THE 1930s.

Letter from the Director



Dear Friends,

As the new director of the Latin American & Iberian Institute, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for your support of the LAII. It is a privilege to lead the institute as we enter our 41st year of promoting research, teaching, and service related to Latin America and Iberia at UNM.

Last year the LAII was led by interim director Ronda Brulotte, who did double duty and also continued to serve as the director of Latin American Studies. It was, to put it mildly, “a challenging year” and through it all Dr. Brulotte led with her characteristic combination of insight, dedication, and grace. The achievements of the past year described in this report can be attributed to Dr. Brulotte and the excellent LAII staff: Associate Director for Program Development Krista Savoca, Unit Administrator Texanna Martin, Communication and Outreach Coordinator Marleen Linares-González, and Administrative Assistant Merle Garcia. Program Manager M. Robyn Côté retired at the end of the year after 25 years of dedicated service, and we thank her for her many contributions in support of programming, international exchanges, and study abroad.

In the spring, Dr. Brulotte and Krista Savoca, collaborated with partners from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) to craft a proposal for an Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language (UISFL) Program Grant from the US Department of Education. At the end of the summer, we received the welcome news that the \$300,000 grant was awarded, allowing us to broaden our efforts to prepare the next generation of global citizens. The funds will support courses in international studies and the less commonly taught languages, as well as faculty-led study abroad trips, over the next three years.

We will no doubt always remember 2019-20 as the year turned upside down by the global coronavirus pandemic, resulting in the closure of much of the UNM campus in March 2020. But before the pandemic (back when “zoom” just meant to move very quickly) LAII had a full slate of celebrations, visitors, and events that served UNM and the larger community. The highlight of the year was no doubt the grand celebration of LAII’s 40th anniversary held in October in beautiful and historic Hodgkin Hall. It was a joyful gathering featuring talks and remembrances by Latin American Studies alumni, mariachi music, great food, and convivial conversations between old friends and new.

In the fall the LAII also welcomed Lorena Ojeda Dávila the second Mexico Studies Chair, a position created by an agreement between the LAII and COMEXUS, the US-Mexico Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange and supported by the Fulbright Garcia-Robles program. It was an honor to host Dr. Ojeda Dávila, whose work focuses on the P’urhépecha people and Indigenous social movements. We look forward to welcoming our next Mexico Studies Chair, Jorge Alberto Lozoya, a leading figure in international cultural affairs, founder of the International Museum of the Baroque in Puebla, and the 2019 winner of the Brettell Award in the Arts. Ambassador Lozoya will join us in the fall of 2021.

The LAII’s greatest resource is the over 140 affiliated faculty including eight new faculty who bring their talent and expertise to the departments of Political Science (Sergio Ascencio Bonfil), Spanish and Portuguese (Paulo Dutra and Angélica Serna Jerí (who holds a joint appointment in Latin American Studies)), Communication and Journalism (Michael Lechuga), University Libraries (Margie Montañez), Population Health (Laura Nervi), and Anthropology (Catherine Rhodes and Joshua Shapero). We welcome them and are grateful for how much they have already contributed to LAII and to Latin American and Iberian studies at UNM, despite the pandemic-related disruption of their first year. We also thank Jim Mondloch, who retired at the end of the year, and express our deep appreciation for his years of service teaching K’iche’ Maya at UNM, and for his contributions as a scholar of the Maya people, past and present.

Both new and continuing faculty, as well as guests, contributed to our programming, which covered a broad range of significant topics from Afro/Indigenous citizens in Central America to the digital humanities and Latinx studies; from the Nación Genízara to the history of the Consulate of Mexico in New Mexico; and from contemporary health politics in Brazil to testimonios and migration. Several programs were held at CNM, as part of LAII’s ongoing effort (currently in partnership with the “New Mexico Humanities Now” initiative) to support students in the humanities and Latin American studies at CNM and strengthen the bridge between our two institutions. Our K-12 educational outreach efforts included promoting Latinx literature through the Vamos a Leer program, offering an educator workshop on winter holidays in Latin America, and co-sponsoring the national Américas Award for Children’s and Young Adult Literature.

This year, LAII has switched to an all virtual programming format, which means that anyone can participate, no matter how far you are from Albuquerque—a recent panel on horses in the Americas drew an audience from across the US and South America as far away as Ushuaia, in Tierra del Fuego. The recordings of these events can be viewed on our YouTube channel (@UNMLAII). Our events this year feature a series on migration, immigration and human rights. In the spring, we join with campus partners and the NHCC to sponsor a lecture series on multiple perspectives on Latin American history. Our educator workshops have also moved online, with a focus this semester on Afro-Latinidad. The curricular material from these and past programs can be found on our website and our Vamos a Leer blog and are a great resource for educators and parents. If you would like to receive our weekly digest, with a list of upcoming LAII and partner events and registration links, please contact us at laii@unm.edu. And please follow us (@unmlaii) on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook. We look forward to seeing you this year!

Frances Hayashida
Director, Latin American & Iberian Institute
Professor of Anthropology
The University of New Mexico

Latin American Studies at UNM



The LAII's Latin American Studies (LAS) program is a nationally prominent, competitive, interdisciplinary program that offers BA, MA, and PhD degrees which are conferred by the College of Arts & Sciences. In addition to the MA in Latin American Studies, we offer dual degree options with five programs (Business Administration, Community & Regional Planning, Education, Law, and Public Health) in which students simultaneously earn the MA in LAS and a professional degree. The LAS academic program builds on UNM's long history of academic excellence in teaching, study, and research related to Latin America and Iberia.

Students within the academic program benefit from a uniquely broad distribution of Latin American expertise across disciplines and colleges, as well as from having access to one of the premier Latin America-focused library collections in the US. The degree programs are designed to be both rigorous and flexible, with robust foreign language study requirements and faculty advisement. Students are able to build an academic program that meets their immediate academic interests while cultivating skills necessary for future career endeavors.

**27 DEPARTMENTS ACROSS
10 SCHOOLS/COLLEGES
OFFERED 602 LATIN
AMERICA-RELATED
COURSES**

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES CONTENT COURSES

Students enroll in Latin American Studies (LAS) courses through various partner departments. Undergraduate and graduate students choose from dozens of course options each semester that engage interdisciplinary lenses to examine essential questions relevant to Latin America, the broader hemisphere, and the world - to better understand cultures, build societal and historical context, question human rights issues, governmental responsibilities, language preservation, health equity, and more. Throughout their coursework, LAS students become equipped with a malleable and marketable skill set, prepared to work for inter-American relations and mutual interests across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Below are a couple of highlights of courses offered in 2019-2020.

LTAM 400/500 | Languages, Culture & Politics in the Andes

Dr. Angelica Serna Jerí

This class explored the kinds of cultural and political transformations surrounding written and verbal art in Quechua. Students investigated the postcolonial condition of Quechua as a language family that was in contact/conflict with the Spanish language. The course guides students in learning how Quechua speakers in South America have engaged in continuous practices of resistance and decolonization from the European invasion to the present. Students focus on analyzing work by Quechua writers including Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala and Ariruma Kowii. A goal in this class is to learn the linguistic and cultural aspects of Quechua together with the cultural characteristics of the Andes. Students learn to employ a variety of methods of cultural interpretation in order to examine issues of translation, language hierarchy, material culture, cultural appropriation, patrimony, heritage, and inter-generational conflict.



GEOG 564 | Food and Natural Resources

Dr. Chris Duvall

This course provides an advanced introduction to the social, cultural, and environmental meanings of food. Human activities have altered all the Earth's ecosystems. Yet humans are also components of ecosystems, because we are entirely reliant upon plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms for food. Food is a direct and ubiquitous connection all humans share with the Earth's biophysical environment. Every day, everyone makes choices about what to eat, how to prepare and eat these foods, and how to dispose associated wastes. Our daily food choices are driven by social and cultural factors. Cumulatively, our choices have profound effects on Earth's environments, and also link us to farmers and other people around the world. This course examines both why we eat what we eat, and how our food choices affect other people and places around the world.

LAS GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate students in the UNM LAS program are diverse, drawing upon a range of academic, professional, and personal experiences related to Latin America. Each semester we welcome a new cohort, support those with degrees underway, and bid farewell to our graduating class. To learn more about each student, visit the LAll website.

INCOMING (FALL 2019)



Ericka Arias
MALAS/MCRP
History; Urbanism & Community Development



Dominic Baca
MALAS/MBA
Human Rights; International Management



Sara Beltran
MALAS
Geography & Environmental Studies; Human Rights



Fiore Bran-Aragón
MALAS
Human Rights; Anthropology



Moira Garcia
MALAS
Art History; Indigenous Studies



Brenda Macias Lopez
MALAS
Human Rights; Spanish American Literature



Jackie Munro
MALAS
Geography & Environmental Studies; Human Rights

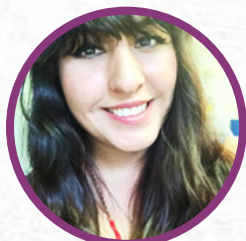


Phillip Salazar
MALAS
Indigenous Studies

IN PROGRESS



Javier Astorga
PhD
Geography & Environmental Studies; Built Environment



Alin Badillo Carillo
MALAS
Public Health; Urbanism and Community Development



Elisa Cibils
MALAS/JD
History; Human Rights



Robert Donnelly
PhD
Sociology; Political Science



Jeremy Falson
MALAS
Sociology; Political Science



David Lindwall
MALAS
History; Political Science



Alexandra Villegas
MALAS/MPH
Public Health; Geography & Environmental Studies

NEW ALUMNI



Neil Michael Ayala Ayala
PhD
Built Environment; Geography & Environmental Studies



Carolina Bucheli-Peñafiel
MALAS
Communication; Spanish American Literature



Dinka Natali
Caceres Arteaga
PhD
Built Environment; Geography & Environmental Studies



Fátima del Angel Guevara
MALAS
Indigenous Studies; Anthropology



Sienna Dellepiane
MALAS
Indigenous Studies; Art History



Monserrat Andrea Fernandez Vela
PhD
Communication; Sociology



Devon Lara
MALAS/MPH
Communication; Public Health



Martina Nebbiai
PhD
International Management; Built Environment

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: NORA LAMM

For LAS alumna Nora Lamm (MALAS/MCRP '19), one of the most pivotal moments in determining her career path was experiencing a major disaster. While studying abroad as an undergraduate student in Chile, Nora experienced the February 2010 earthquake, which measured 8.0 in Santiago and 8.8 at the epicenter - one of the largest earthquakes on record.

“Chileans are experts on emergency management and have been designing their cities to withstand earthquakes for decades. Because of this, there was pretty minimal damage, at least in Santiago and other large cities, so I was able to stay and continue my semester abroad there,” Nora said. “Of course, that wasn’t the case for smaller or more rural communities but, on the whole, Chile is really resilient when it comes to natural disasters and that was a really formative experience for my interest in Latin American Studies but also emergency management and disaster resilience.”

The experience instilled within her a strong belief in the power of urban design and the importance of effective planning and disaster preparedness - an interest that eventually led her to pursue a dual masters degree in Latin American Studies and Community and Regional Development at UNM.

Nora now works for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Washington, D.C. As part of the Mitigation Directorate, Nora and her team are charged with assisting local governments to undertake different types of infrastructure and preparedness projects to help communities withstand disasters down the road. She works specifically with the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program which provides funding for states, local governments, tribes and territories to undertake different types of mitigation projects - anything from a tornado safe room to an earthquake retrofit project. The program also focuses on land acquisition, which provides funding for communities to acquire properties that are in harm’s way and return them to open space so when the next disaster hits, it won’t affect any structures.

“It’s a pretty interesting part of FEMA because it’s increasingly gaining more attention. More focus is being directed on how we can better prepare communities before a disaster- both small scale and catastrophic- rather than just thinking about recovering and rebuilding. We are trying to predict how communities can meet these challenges in the future.”

An Albuquerque-native, Nora says her interest in Latin America stemmed from growing up in a diverse city and state.

“Growing up in a culturally diverse place like New Mexico is a great advantage- it is a unique experience to grow up in an atmosphere with so many different cultures of Latin America just within Albuquerque. I think that alone is really the origin of my interest in the region.”

After earning her undergraduate degree at Middlebury College in Vermont, where she majored in Latin American Studies and Geography and studied both Spanish and Portuguese, Nora went abroad for a semester in La Serena, Chile. After graduating, Nora attempted to follow what she calls a “traditional career path.” However, she quickly realized she wanted to pursue her passion for travel and enhance her knowledge on Latin America even further which led her to the MALAS program at UNM.

She looks back at her time at UNM and the LAII fondly.

“What first struck me about the LAII was that they provided so much support informing you of all the different types of opportunities that students have to get funding for field research, study abroad, language training, all sorts of opportunities,” Nora said. “It’s great to be a student because you qualify for so many different opportunities,

but I do think that’s something special about the LAII - they provide and inform you about so many types of funding for travel and research.”

During her time at UNM, Nora was awarded a graduate assistantship, a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship, and a Boren Fellowship. After completing the Boren, she moved to Washington, D.C. to fulfill the federal work requirement of the fellowship.

As far as advice for upcoming scholars in the field of Latin America, Nora strongly recommends seeking and applying for as many opportunities as possible.

“Take advantage of every opportunity you can, even if you don’t think you’ll be selected,” she said. “I really didn’t think I had a chance for the FLAS or the Boren fellowships but the professors are so willing to help you with essays, recommendation letters, really anything you need. I remember feeling so supported in that respect.”

She also highly recommends students not “brush off” careers in local, state, or federal government.

“I think when you’re studying an interdisciplinary subject like Latin American Studies, you might not think government is the place for you, but the Federal government is vast with many opportunities to contribute in different ways,” she said. “Many agencies have international relations offices so, even if you think an agency might not do anything international and your skills may not seem applicable, they definitely can be. Seek out as many opportunities you can.”



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ANGELICA SERNA JERÍ



Dr. Angelica Serna Jerí started as an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Latin American Studies at UNM in Spring 2020. Dr. Serna Jerí is the first faculty member hired with a joint appointment in Latin American Studies and the department excitedly welcomed her and her wealth of knowledge and expertise. She is a scholar of Indigenous languages and cultures in Latin America with a focus on the Andean region and the Quechua language family. For her first Latin American Studies course, she taught a course titled, “Languages, Culture, and Politics in the Andes.” Her course explored the cultural and political transformations surrounding written and verbal art in Quechua, the largest spoken Indigenous language in South America, and how Quechua speakers in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, and part of Argentina have engaged

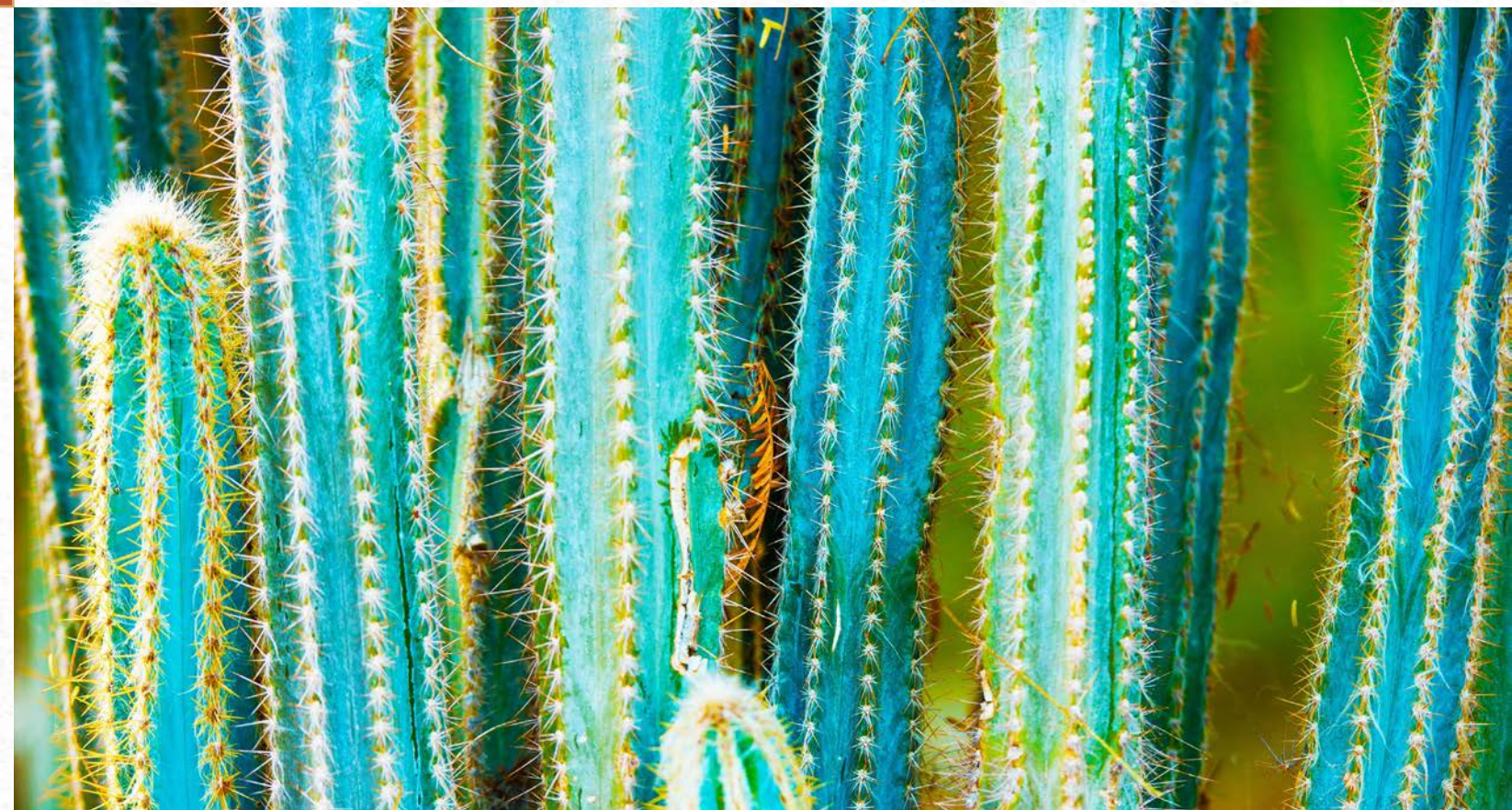
in the continuous practice of resistance and decolonization from the European invasion to the present. The course aimed to take students on a journey from the colonial period to the present, incorporating the Quechua language and providing a basis for thinking about parallel issues at a global level. Students examined issues of translation, language hierarchy, material culture, cultural appropriation, heritage, patrimony, and inter-generational conflict.

Dr. Serna Jerí’s journey into the historical evolution of Quechua began when she was a child growing up in a bilingual Quechua-Spanish family in Andahuaylas, a city approximately 9 hours west of Cuzco, Peru. While growing up, she was surrounded by stories narrated in Quechua by family members that inspired her interest in the dynamic relationship between writing and verbal art. After her family moved to Lima, she began her studies at the Universidad de San Marcos where she encountered the works of José María Arguedas, one of the main figures of the indigenismo movement, whose work from the 1960s incorporated the juxtaposition of writings in both Quechua and Spanish. His works illustrated the resulting problems and issues, which started at the beginning of the European colonization of Peru, and encouraged her to focus her research on the role of Indigenous speakers and the emergence of literacy in the colonial period.

She became fascinated by how books written in Quechua from the 17th century produced a grammatical structure in order to create a written Quechua language. “The written corpus that we know from the 17th century was produced by missionaries under colonial rule in order to evangelize or proselytize Indigenous peoples, and only created a representation of the grammar of the Quechua language,” she says. “It did not include the rich lexica central to the Andean world.”

While working on her PhD at the University of Michigan, she spent a year and a half doing research in Peru and elsewhere, thanks to a grant she received from the Wenner-Gren Foundation. Her research took her to Cuzco, Ancash, Ayacucho, Lima, and Huancayo in Peru. She spent months researching the historical documents in various archives such as the Archivo de las Indias in Sevilla, Spain, the Spanish National Library, the U.S. National Archives, and the U.S. Library of Congress, among other collections. Much of her research landed her in what she describes as, “lives of old books, paper, libraries, and archives.” Dr. Serna Jerí says of her work, “By reflecting on how spoken experience articulates with text, my work also examines the affective aspects of the archive.” This research will culminate in a new book, with the working title *Life in the Archives: Emerging Literacy in the Colonial Andes*.

Dr. Serna Jerí incorporates the theory of subaltern studies into her research and teaching in order to examine the question of how power and archives intersect. Reflecting on power and archives, Dr. Serna Jerí says, “I became fascinated by how archives function and hold information and sometimes are the institutions of power that very much control the circulation of knowledge. Digitization reproduces certain colonial problems, such as inequality of access for Indigenous communities. Even though these documents were produced in the colonial period, we need to see them as objects that impact Indigenous communities now.”



NEW LAII FACULTY & AFFILIATED SCHOLARS

Faculty

- Sergio Ascencio Bonfil, Political Science
- Paulo Dutra, Spanish & Portuguese
- Michael Lechuga, Communication & Journalism
- Margie Montañez, University Libraries
- Laura Nervi, Population Health
- Catherine Rhodes, Anthropology
- Angelica Serna Jerí, Latin American Studies & Spanish & Portuguese
- Joshua Shapero, Anthropology

Affiliated Scholars

- Thainara Granero de Melo
- Ryan Hechler
- Lean Sweeney
- Erin Zavitz

JAMES MONDLOCH & THE K'ICHE' MAYA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



James Mondloch's interest in Guatemala began when he moved there in 1965 as a Catholic missionary. He spent much of the next fifteen years living and working in the coastal K'iche' speaking communities of Nahualá and Santa Catarina Ixtahuacan in the Departamento de Sololá, immersing himself in the study of the K'iche' language and culture. In 1976, he married Maria Tahay Carrillo, a native of Santa Catarina Ixtahuacan, Guatemala. They were forced to leave Guatemala in 1981 due to the violence inflicted on the Mayan Communities by the Guatemalan government military and police at that time. He earned his PhD in linguistics and anthropology from the State University of New York at Albany in 1981.

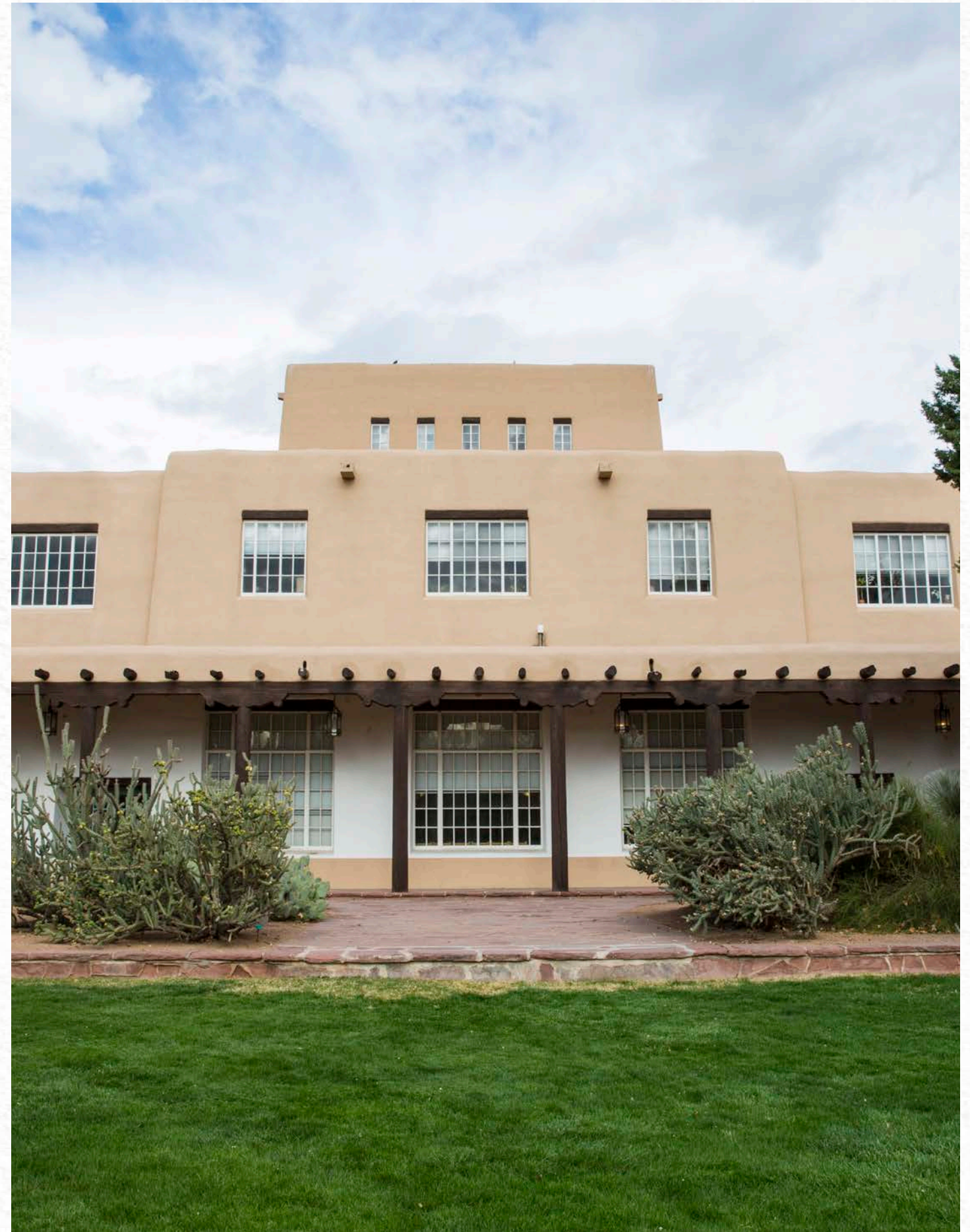
Since then, he's written and published a number of books and articles including *Basic K'iche' Grammar*, and a new transcription and translation of the *Popol Wuj*, the sacred book of the K'iche' Maya people. Mondloch started teaching courses in the K'iche' Maya language at UNM in 1991. His classes have since had a strong following of dedicated students. After 19 years of teaching at UNM and a longer career in public service, Dr. Mondloch retired in Spring 2020.

The timing of his retirement dovetailed with the migration of his K'iche' Maya Oral History Project to the UNM Digital Repository where the collection will remain free and open to the public in perpetuity. The migration involved the digitization of over one hundred oral histories he recorded during his earlier years in Guatemala. This project was a collaborative endeavor between Dr. James Mondloch and the LAII, made possible with funding from the LAII's U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant.

The K'iche' Maya Oral History Project contains 149 oral histories, which were collected in western Guatemala during the 1960s and 1970s. In the decades since these stories were recorded and transcribed, the speakers of the K'iche' language have come under increasing pressure to integrate into the national Guatemalan culture and to use Spanish as their primary language. The online availability of this collection provides to those K'iche' Mayans who are struggling to preserve their language and culture a unique source of material to assist them in their efforts.

The narratives in this collection also provide unique insights into the culture of the K'iche' Maya including their history, social organization, values, beliefs, agricultural practices, and cosmivision. Those interested in studying the K'iche' language will find the audio recordings of the narratives accompanied by their transcriptions a rich source of materials in the language.

The LAII wishes Dr. Mondloch a very happy retirement and are grateful that his work will be available to researchers and K'iche' people.



LAII CAREER RETROSPECTIVE: M. ROBYN CÔTÉ



After 25 years of dedicated service to the LAII and 31 years at UNM, Robyn Côté retired from her full-time position at LAII at the end of April 2020.

Robyn Côté was hired at the LAII in 1995 to work with the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) secretariat and the El Camino Real Project, Inc., both of which she worked with for several years. BRASA had 600 members at the time and the organization hosted conferences in Cambridge, England; Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil; Washington, D.C.; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Atlanta, Georgia. The El Camino Real Project, Inc. featured an exhibit and catalog on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, the Royal Road that went from Mexico City to Santa Fe, NM. Another important function of her early career at the LAII was to manage recruitment and marketing for the Guanajuato Summer Law Institute, a consortium between the UNM School of Law, Texas Tech University School of Law, Southwestern University School of Law, and the Universidad de Guanajuato Facultad de Derecho, between 1995 and 2015, when the program was suspended due to both the H1N1 outbreak of 2009 and increased cartel violence in Mexico.

In 2008, Robyn became LAII Program Manager in charge of all of UNM's international agreements with universities in Latin America and Spain (roughly 100) and management of UNM's Study Abroad Program to Latin America and Spain, sending approximately 700 students abroad and receiving over 300 international exchange students.

"I'm very proud of the Study Abroad and Intensive Language program that I developed at UNM, offering students a great value in reduced tuition to learn Spanish and Portuguese while living abroad and receiving financial aid at UNM, and created a system for them to seamlessly transfer their credits back to UNM. Some of my fondest memories are of students and their parents thanking me for helping them discover their life-changing experiences that made them become who they are today."

During the summers of 2009 and 2015, the LAII began working in earnest on cultural exchanges with the country of Ecuador. Partnering with the U.S. Embassy in Quito and the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, the LAII received several Indigenous Ecuadorian students at UNM. The LAII partnered with local Pueblo communities and the College of Education to learn about each others' cultures. She felt fortunate to accompany the students to the Pueblo of Acoma and to Chaco Canyon and to the nearby pueblos of Sandia and Cochiti to attend some of our Indigenous Pueblo feast days. During this time the LAII also helped the Conexiones program develop their current Honors program in Ecuador.

Between 2012 and 2017, the LAII became heavily involved in sending community members to Cuba through the People-to-People program. The LAII sent 15 groups of 15 or more people to mostly Havana but also to other parts of the island, including Cienfuegos, Santa Clara and Trinidad. Robyn personally led two People-to-People trips, one in 2015 and another in 2016 to attend the Havana International Jazz Festival and to explore Havana's remarkable abundance of Art Deco architecture assisted by professors from the Universidad de la Habana.

In May of 2019, Dr. Margaret Jackson (Department of Art & Art History) and Robyn led a trip of community members to visit Mayan archaeology sites in the Mexican states of Chiapas, Campeche, and Quintana Roo. The highlight of the trip was visiting the important Maya site of Calakmul near the Guatemalan border. The trip started in San Cristobal de las

Casas, passed through the archaeological site of Palenque, and then Calakmul and smaller surrounding sites, and ended at the Caribbean site of Tulum. Robyn noted that this trip was the highlight of her years as trip-leader for the LAII.

"I guess you could sum it up to say that I've been involved in international education for the past 25 years of my life, and in international experiences in my personal life from early on, living in Canada, Brazil, Switzerland, and Nigeria. International recruitment has always been a priority to me, and I served as the UNM representative for CONACYT from 2002-2020, which is kind of like Mexico's NSF, an agency who funded Mexican students to come to UNM to receive Masters and PhD degrees. I not only sent several hundred students abroad, but I also worked hard to develop programs to bring international students to UNM. I also served on the Provost's Study Abroad Allocation Committee funding faculty-led programs, and the Provost's Health and Safety Committee for about 10 years.

"It was an honor to serve UNM in these capacities and I have many fond memories of working with faculty and students to develop study abroad procedures and policies for hundreds of UNM students and faculty leaders. Though I am sad to leave UNM, I am sure that its international education program will flourish in the near future."



Photo courtesy of Manon Robyn Côté

INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (ICLAS) 2019-2020

The Interdisciplinary Committee on Latin American Studies (ICLAS) is the faculty governance body of the LAS program. The committee is composed of 8 to 10 full-time faculty members appointed by the Dean of Arts and Sciences and one graduate student representative who serves a one-year term. The Associate Director of Academic Programs chairs the committee.

Ronda Brulotte | Chair

Associate Director of Academic Programs

Ana Alonso-Minutti

Fine Arts

Sergio Ascencio

Political Science

Frances Hayashida

Anthropology

Liz Hutchinson

History

Manuel Montoya

International Management

Eva Rodriguez

Spanish and Portuguese

Patricia Rosas Lopategui

Chicana & Chicano Studies

Marygold Walsh-Dilley

Honors College

Devon Lara

Graduate Student Representative



Latin American Studies at CNM



The LAII partnered with Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) in 2014 to strengthen the relationship and leverage resources between the UNM and CNM Latin American Studies programs, the latter established at that time.

Housed within the CNM School of Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences (CHSS), the program provides students with an interdisciplinary foundation for understanding the Latin American region through cultural anthropology, history, geography, language, and literature, among other disciplines. Students gain language skills and area competencies valuable in business, public service, and/or further training.

CNM students who seek to continue their Latin American Studies at UNM receive coordinated advisement from staff in each program. This seamless student support is made possible thanks to the close working relationship of CNM and UNM LAS administrators, particularly the leadership of Dr. Erica Volkers, Dean of CHSS, and the perspective brought by Dr. Brandon Morgan, who serves as the Latin American Studies Chair, as well as History, Cultural Studies, Anthropology, Political Science, and

**134 STUDENTS AND
FACULTY ENGAGED WITH
EACH OTHER THROUGH
PUBLIC EVENTS AND
COURSE PRESENTATIONS**

Economics. This partnership has been strengthened through the UNM/CNM Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant, “New Mexico Humanities Now!” which supports CNM students across Humanities disciplines to transfer to UNM and continue their studies.

CNM•UNM LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES LECTURE SERIES

As part of the effort to bridge the programs at each campus, the LAII regularly coordinates the CNM•UNM LAS Lecture Series, in which faculty and graduate students from UNM visit CNM to present their research and experiences as Latin Americanist scholars. The series also includes events that introduces opportunities available to CNM students. The 2019-2020 CNM•UNM LAS Lecture Series included:

- **CNM Major Mixer**
- *Humanities, Digital Humanities, and Latinx Studies: Exploring the Interstices in Academic Libraries* - Margie Montañez, Assistant Professor & Latin American Collections Curator, Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections (CSWR)
- **Peace Corps - Info Session**
- *Car Trunk: A Multimodal Migration* - Melisa Garcia, Instructor and PhD candidate, Rhetoric and Writing



Student Research & Awards



The LAII stimulates Latin American research and scholarship by supporting students within the Latin American Studies program and from affiliated departments across campus. Funding may take the form of fellowships or scholarship for field research, advanced doctoral studies, or professional development at conferences.

Students at both undergraduate and graduate levels benefit from this interdisciplinary, cross-campus support.

**WE FUNDED 17 STUDENTS
FROM ACROSS CAMPUS,
FACILITATING RESEARCH,
TRAVEL, AND STUDY**

FIELD RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

Each spring the LAII awards Field Research Grants (FRGs) to graduate students across campus who pursue research in Latin America.

FRGs provide graduate students an opportunity to acquire a comprehensive knowledge of Latin American languages, terrain, and cultures; to become familiar with information sources relevant to their studies; to conduct pilot studies and preliminary investigations that will inform their thesis or dissertation proposals; and to develop contacts with scholars and institutions in their fields of study. Unfortunately, these students weren't able to participate in their planned field research due to the COVID-19 pandemic but hope to do so as soon as it is deemed safe to travel again.

CHRIS ANDERSON

Biology | *Estimating the evolutionary history of Anolis lizards*

FIORE STELLA BRAN ARAGÓN

Latin American Studies | *Between the State of Exception and the Possibilities of Integration: Indigenous Warao Migrants in the Face of Immigration in Postcolonial Brazil*

HUNTER L. BROWN

Linguistics | *The Expression of Motion & Dynamics in Secoya*

ELEANOR KANE

Art History | *Preliminary Convent Finances Research*

MANUELA LODOÑO

Biology | *Species Limits and Zoonotic Disease in Andean shrews*

EDREA MENDOZA

History | *Reproductive Justice in 20th Century Mexico*

JACQUELINE MUNROE

Latin American Studies | *The Untrained Painters of Solentiname, Nicaragua*

ASTRID JOSELINE SEGOVIA

Linguistics | *The Expression of Gender in Secoya Discourse*

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

The LAII periodically provides conference travel support for undergraduate and graduate LAS students.

ELISA CIBILIS

Latin American Studies | *AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference in D.C | Practicing Asylum: A Handbook on Expert Witnesses on Latin American Domestic Violence, LGBTI, and Mother/Child Cases*

PHD FELLOWS

LAII PhD Fellowships are highly competitive awards given to doctoral students across campus to support Latin America-related dissertation research and writing. The following students held fellowships during the 2019-2020 academic year.

- Asia Alsgaard | Anthropology (Archaeology)
- Carter Barnwell | History
- Milena Carvalho | Anthropology (Archaeology)
- James Alexander Davenport | Anthropology (Archaeology)
- Josefina Bittar Prieto | Linguistics
- Zsofia J. Szoke | Anthropology (Ethnology)
- Javier E. Astorga | Latin American Studies
- Marina Todeschini | Spanish & Portuguese (Portuguese)
- Desiree Ramirez Urbaneja | Spanish & Portuguese (Spanish)



Faculty Research & Awards



The LAll is sustained and enhanced by the research, teaching, and service of its affiliated faculty across campus. Over one hundred faculty contribute to these efforts and are affiliated with the Institute. To support this broad community, the LAll awards funding for field research, conference travel, course development, interdisciplinary projects, and more.

WE HAVE **100+**
AFFILIATED FACULTY WHO
REPRESENT OVER **40**
DEPARTMENTS

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

The LAll provided professional development funds to eight faculty to present papers at academic and professional conferences in the U.S. and abroad.

RONDA BRULOTTE

Geography & Environmental Studies | Council of National Resource Centers

CHRIS DUVALL

Geography & Environmental Studies | 3rd World of Congress of Environmental History in Florianopolis, Brazil

ELIZABETH HUTCHISON

History | AAAS Science, Technology, and Human Rights Conference

SUZANNE OAKDALE

Anthropology | Conference of The Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America (Vienna, Austria)

KIMBERLY GAUDERMAN

History | AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference

MIGUEL LÓPEZ

Spanish & Portuguese | 2020 Modern Language Association Annual Convention: Being Human

MARIA LANE

Geography & Environmental Studies | Conference of Latin American Geographers

ANNA NOGAR

Spanish & Portuguese | Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literacy Heritage Program Conference: Histories and Cultural of Latinas: Suffrage, Activism, and Women's Rights

FIELD RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

The LAll annually holds a competition for faculty grants to support beginning field research on new projects or to complete, supplement, or add a comparative dimension to field work conducted

previously in Latin America, Spain, or Portugal. Unfortunately, these faculty weren't able to participate in their planned field research due to the COVID-19 pandemic but hope to do so once it is deemed safe to travel again. In this award cycle, we supported the following projects:

ANA ALONSO-MINUTTI

Music | Feminist Noising in Costa Rica

PAUL FIGUEROA

Law | Imitation is Not Flattery: How to Stop Cultura

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

As part of the LAll's efforts to foster stimulating teaching and scholarship on Latin America, we issue a call for proposals for interdisciplinary project development awards each year. The awards are intended to assist UNM full time tenured or tenure-track faculty in developing interdisciplinary research and creative activities, including but not limited to writing and submission of extra-mural funding proposals related to Latin American and Iberian area studies. In this award cycle, we supported the following proposal:

WATER VULNERABILITY IN CENTRAL AMERICAN DRY CORRIDOR

Benjamin Warner (Geography & Environmental Studies) and Jami Nelson-Nuñez (Political Science)

Academic Lectures & Events



The LAll maintains a thriving outreach program that reaches across and beyond UNM. In addition to hosting our own events, we co-sponsor a range of programs in partnership with departments and organizations across campus. Lecture series, invited presentations, and conferences all contribute to the dynamic learning experience at UNM.

**ALONGSIDE 31 FACULTY,
INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS,
AUTHORS, AND ARTISTS
WE OFFERED 37
ACADEMIC EVENTS,
REACHING OVER 800
PEOPLE**

In 2019-20 the LAll featured 31 faculty, independent scholars, authors, and artists:

- **Sheryl Felecia Means, UNM Africana Studies** - *The Conflicting Politics of Central America & Their Afro/Indigenous Citizens 1970s-1990s*
- **Karla Inestroza, Honduran Physicians for Medical Brigades** - Cultural Dimensions of Mental Healthcare and Differences in Practices in Honduras and the USA
- **Rebecca Tarlau, Pennsylvania State University** - Occupying Schools, Occupying Land: How the Landless Workers Movement Transformed Brazilian Education
- **Doris Careaga Coleman, UNM Chicana & Chicano Studies** - Sones de Allá Para Acá: Son Jarocho from Mexico to USA
- **Laura Gritz, UNM State Department, Diplomat in Residence** - Apply Your Skills to a Career in Diplomacy
- **Marta Turok, Mexican anthropologist** - Huipiles and Mexican Indigenous Textiles: Marta Turok
- **Cathy Ragland, University of North Texas** - Reclaiming 'The Border' in Texas-Mexican Conjunto Heritage and Cultural Memory
- **Consulado de México en Albuquerque** - The Consulate of Mexico in NM: 170 Years of Presence and Consular Protection
- **Alex Avina, Florida State University** - "They say the bones talk": Enforced Disappearances and the Archives of State Terror in Past and Present Mexico
- **Marco Akerman, University of Sao Paulo; Rosilda Mendes and Maria Fernanda Frutuoso, Federal University of São Paulo; Dais Rocha, University of Brasilia** - Contemporary Health Politics in Brazil: The Challenges of Achieving Health Equity in the Americas
- **Maria del Carmen Parafita-Couto, Leiden University** - Interdisciplinary Lecture Series in Linguistics: Switching On and Off Spanish Grammatical Gender in Bilingual Scenarios
- **Christy Thornton, John Hopkins University** - Revolution in Development: Mexico and the Governance of the Global Economy



- **Diego Pons, Columbia University; Sarah Romano, Lesley University; Brent E. Metz, University of Kansas; Matthew Taylor, University of Denver** - Climate Vulnerability & Conflict in the Central American Dry Corridor
- **Melisa Garcia, UNM Department of English** - Car Trunk - A Multimodal Migration
- **Margie Montanez, Latin American Collections Curator Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections** - Humanities, Digital Humanities, and Latinx Studies: Exploring the Interstices in Academic Libraries
- **Lorena Ojeda Dávila, UNM Mexico Studies Chair** - Resistencia y Movimientos Armados de los Pueblos Indigenas en Michoacan: Reflexiones Historicas de una Lucha Viva
- **Jesus-Ramos-Kittrell, University of Connecticut** - Music, Power, and Signification: A Phenomenological Reading of Race in New Spain
- **Leonardo Martinez-Diaz, Global Director of the Sustainable Finance Center at the World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C.** - Building a Resilient Tomorrow: How to Prepare for the Coming Climate Disruption
- **Low Frequency Trio: Antonio Rosales, Juan José García, José Luis Hurtado** - Music from the Americas Concert Series: Low Frequency Trio
- **R. Moises Gonzales and Enrique R. Lamadrid, The University of New Mexico** - Nación Genízara: Ethnogenesis, Place, and Identity in New Mexico
- **Stuart Schrader, Johns Hopkins University** - The Police-Military Continuum: How World War II Transformed US Police
- **Glenn Martínez, The Ohio State University** - Language Concordance, Heritage Language Health Professionals, and Latino Health
- **Loga Roman Torkian and Azam Ali, Niyaz** - Cultural Appropriation and Assimilation in the New Global Context
- **Fátima Del Angel Guevara, UNM Latin American Studies program** - Fideicomiso Archivos Plutarco Elias Calles y Fernando Torreblanca Digital Collection
- **Andrea Shaheen Espinosa, University of Texas El Paso** - Arab Musicking on the US Mexico Border

K-12 Educational Outreach



We provide outreach to K-12 educators and students who work across grade levels and content areas, promoting understanding about Latin American cultures and languages.

The LAll's K-12 outreach takes the form of professional development workshops, curriculum development, and youth programming. All emphasize culturally relevant and critically-informed content. Particularly here in New Mexico, where Spanish is an official language and local history is informed by a legacy of exchange across the Americas, students benefit from culturally informed and accurate materials.

WORKSHOP SPOTLIGHT: WINTER CELEBRATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

Leading up to the holiday season of 2019, the LAll hosted sixteen local educators to an evening of free professional development as we explored how winter holidays celebrated in Latin America. We spent the evening discussing resources for curriculum about the Latin American traditions of Carnaval, Nochebuena, and Año Nuevo. Lessons included reading, video, music, and craft components and included content in both English and Spanish.

CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT: SWITCHING GEARS TO LEARNING FROM HOME

In response to the quick change to remote learning in mid-Spring 2020, the LAll shifted to promoting and creating materials that were easily accessible from home for educators, students, and their parents to continue supporting the inclusion of Latin America in the new classroom. This included short lessons on Latin-Americans in the STEM field, the introduction of the "Viajamos a...", a series in which students take a virtual, educational tour through Latin American countries, and the incorporation of subjects outside of social studies in the Latin American context such as Earth Day.

Our People



The LAII functions as a network of faculty, students, independent scholars, K-12 educators, and community members. Our programs sustain this network and benefit from it, contributing to UNM's rich environment for the study and teaching of Latin America and Iberia. These diverse affiliates regularly come together to share approaches to understanding the region.

**LAII FOSTERS A
DYNAMIC COMMUNITY OF
SCHOLARSHIP WITHIN AND
BEYOND UNM**

Our People **Faculty**



The LAII draws together a diverse community of affiliated faculty from across campus who comprise our Faculty Concilium. To ensure disciplinary representation in our programs, awards, and events, we have four faculty committees that provide guidance:

- Executive Committee
- Grants and Awards Committee
- Operations Committee
- Interdisciplinary Committee on Latin American Studies (ICLAS)

The collective advice gathered through the committees is put into action by professional staff who carry out the day-to-day operations of the Institute.

Our People **Staff**



Frances Hayashida
Director

Ronda Brulotte
Interim Director
Associate Director for Academic Programs

Marleen Linares-Gonzalez
Communication & Outreach Specialist

Texanna Martin
Unit Administrator

Krista Savoca
Associate Director for Program Development

A big “thank you” to the graduate and undergraduate student assistants for their contributions in 2019-20 to the LAII and our partners:

Ericka Arias	Jason Farmer
Dominic Baca	Moira Garcia
Cinthya Bolivar	Mario Heredia
Fiore Bran Aragón	Delaney Hill
Carolina Bucheli	Jessica Jones
Sheena Chakeres	Devon Lara
Elisa Ciblis	Martin Ruiz
Carlos Contreras	Phillip Salazar
Fátima Del Angel Guevara	Laura Torres Vargas
Sienna Dellepiane	Alexandra Villegas
Robert Donnelly	

Give Back to the LAII



Whether the LAII helped you finish your dissertation, launch your career trajectory, conduct research, or simply strengthen your interest in Latin American studies, we're proud of our alumni and friends and want to continue to help support future students embark on similar endeavors.

To learn more about our funds and to donate, visit laii.unm.edu/give-now.html or contact the LAII at (505) 277-2961.

**The University of New Mexico
Latin American & Iberian Institute**

LAII.UNM.EDU