

Institute for Latino Studies Announces:

Young Scholars Symposium Participants

The Institute for Latino Studies is pleased to announce the participants for our 2017 Young Scholars Symposium, to be convened April 6-7 on the University of Notre Dame campus. These scholars will present a dissertation chapter or essay draft for discussion with ILS faculty fellows and our 2017 Distinguished Visiting Professor, Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado, Professor of Religious Studies and Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education, University of Miami. Congratulations to our 2017 honorees:



Leo Guardado is a doctoral candidate in Theology and Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Leo's research brings together the ongoing reality of war-like violence in Central America that is causing mass human displacement with the historical and current responses by ecclesial communities in North America. His dissertation will use lenses from both systematic theology and peace studies to argue for a preferential option for the displaced poor, and for a robust retrieval and reimagining of the category of Church as Sanctuary. Leo is originally from El Salvador. His symposium presentation is titled "The 1980s Sanctuary Movement: Discerning an Ecclesial Responsibility to Protect."

Lauren Frances Guerra is currently a post-doctoral Visiting Scholar at Southern Methodist University through the generous support of the Louisville Institute. She is of Guatemalan-Ecuadorian descent and an active member of the Roman Catholic Church. Her current research interests include Pneumatology, U.S. Latino/a theology, and Theological Aesthetics. She will present "Beautified by the Spirit: Towards a U.S. Latino/a Constructive Pneumatology" as her contribution to the symposium.



Melissa Guzman is an Assistant Professor in Latina/o Studies at San Francisco State University. Trained in Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, her research focuses on migration, race, citizenship, religion, and the criminalization of Latina/o communities. Some of her recent ethnographic work on migration and religion can be found in *International Migration Review*. Her symposium presentation is titled "'A New You': Spiritual deliverance and the religious construction of Latina/o criminality."

Rebeca Hey-Colón is an Assistant Professor of Spanish at Colby College. Her research establishes connections between the Caribbean diaspora, Chicax communities, and broader Latinx Studies by analyzing the presence of water. Her current book project, *Rippling Borders in Latina Literature*, explores the relationship between water, borders, bodies, and spirituality in Chicana and Caribbean Latina authors. "The Serpentine River: Anzaldúa's Spiritual Waters" is her symposium presentation.



Ana-Maurine Lara is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Oregon. Her work engages the interstices between decolonial theories, gender and sexuality studies, and black feminist praxis. *Bodies and Souls*, her first academic book-length manuscript, examines the relationship between Catholic theology and contemporary movements for GLBT human rights. She will present "Coloniality and the Catholic Church" at the symposium.

Daisy Vargas is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of California Riverside, writing a dissertation exploring political and legal discourses surrounding Mexican religion in the United States following the Mexican War. Her ethnographic and archival research considers the ways in which Latinx religious practices and performances shape concepts of assimilation and citizenship, and pays particular attention to debates on multiculturalism and secularism. Her symposium presentation is titled "Between Church and State: Penitente Religion and American Secularism in New Mexico."

