

ILS Announces Young Scholars Symposium

The Institute for Latino Studies is pleased to announce the participants for our 2015 Young Scholars Symposium, to be convened April 8-10 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 2015 Virgilio Elizondo Distinguished Visiting Professor, David Carrasco. Dr. Carrasco is the Neil L. Rudenstine Professor of the Study of Latin America at Harvard Divinity School and holds a joint appointment with the Department of Anthropology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University. ILS faculty selected Symposium participants from a national pool of applicants based on the dual criteria of the scholarly excellence of their proposal and the compatibility of their research with Professor Carrasco's areas of expertise. Congratulations to our 2015 honorees:



Lloyd Barba is a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan and holds a B.A. from the University of the Pacific located in his hometown of Stockton, California. His research compares Mexican and “Okie” Pentecostalism in the agricultural valleys of California. The presentation he will make to the Young Scholars Symposium is titled “Farmworker Frames: Mexican Pentecostal Counternarratives in California.”

Kiku Hucke is a doctoral candidate in Political Science at the University of Washington. Her dissertation examines how institutional factors constrain the Catholic Church’s ability to respond to Latino and immigrant Catholic needs. She earned Master’s degrees in Political Science from Villanova University and in Theological Studies from George Fox Seminary. She will present a chapter from her dissertation in progress, “¿Es su casa mi casa? Latinos and the Catholic Church.”



Dr. Marzia Milazzo is an assistant professor of English and affiliated faculty in the Latina/o Studies and African American & Diaspora Studies Programs at Vanderbilt University. She is currently completing a book titled *Colorblind Tools: Narrating Racial Power in the Americas and South Africa*, which examines the rhetorical contours of colorblindness discourse and their implications for literary imaginaries, antiracist struggles, and the production of knowledge in Panama, the United States, and South Africa. Her symposium presentation comes from that project: “Encountering the Indian: Chicana Decolonial Imaginaries and Colorblind Logics.”

Dr. Aida I. Ramos is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Her research is on the social experiences of U.S. Latinos with a focus on religion and education. She has published in various peer-reviewed journals, including the *Social Science Quarterly*, the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, and the *Journal of Family Issues*. Her presentation is titled “A Matter of the Heart: Understanding Reasons for Latino/a Catholic to Protestant Conversion.”



Javier Ramirez is a PhD candidate in the Department of Communication and Culture and the Media School at Indiana University. He specializes in film and media studies, with a particular interest in film exhibition and moviegoing, social constructions of race, and the U.S.-Mexico border. Javier is also an experimental filmmaker who, as a self-identified Tejano, utilizes *rasquachismo* and guerrilla-filmmaking in his creative projects. For the Young Scholars Symposium, he will present an essay draft, “Mexican Cinema in *el otro lado*: A Case Study of the Exhibition of *Angelitos negros* in San Antonio, Texas.”



Dr. Sujey Vega is an assistant professor in Women and Gender Studies at Arizona State University. Her research utilizes ethnography, oral history, and archival analysis to explore U.S. Latino experiences and ethno-religious practices. Her book, *Latino Heartland: Of Borders and Belonging in the Midwest* (June 2015 NYU Press), places in dialogue Mexican Hoosiers and non-Mexican (mostly White) Hoosiers of Indiana as they both come to terms with living in the same communal space. Dr. Vega’s current project historically locates the growth of Latina/o LDS members in the Phoenix area and the role the LDS Church plays in the lives of current Latino Mormons. She will present a portion of that research for the ILS symposium, “Latinos as Lamanites: Present, Past, and Complicated Identities in Latino Mormondom.”

