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Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4xt4w4c5

Journal
Mester, 54(0)

Author
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Publication Date
2025-12-12

DOI
10.5070/M3.61442

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Notes on Editors

Biographical notes in alphabetical order

Adela McKay Villegas is a PhD student in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Los Angeles. She earned her M.A. in Spanish from the University of California, Riverside, and her B.A. in Spanish, Community, and Culture from the University of California, Los Angeles. Throughout her academic career, she has been a member of the feminist scholars' nonprofit coalition, Feministas Unidas. Her research interests include early modern Spanish literature, transatlantic studies, and 20th-century Latin American literature. Since 2022, she has served as a member of the Editorial Board of Mester.

Adriana Rojas is a PhD student in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Los Angeles. She earned her M.A. in Hispanic Studies from the University of Washington in 2024 and her B.A. in English Literature and Spanish from DePauw University in 2016. Her research focuses on literature and media produced after the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile, both within the country and across the diaspora, with particular interest in memory and spatiality studies. She also explores transatlantic themes, especially geocriticism and the role of place as a site of emotional and historical memory.

Ana K. Arreguin Gómez is a Ph.D. student from the Spanish and Portuguese Department at the University of California, Los Angeles. S he is pursuing a doctoral degree in the Ph.D. program in Hispanic Languages and Literatures. She holds a B.A. in Language Studies from UCSD and an M.A. in Spanish from SDSU. Raised between Tijuana and San Diego, Ana is interested in migration and borders. Her research investigates the effect of multiple types of violence in border zones and how its effects are portrayed in contemporary literature texts, such as Yuri Herrera's novels. She is also part of the Urban Humanities Initiative 2024-2025 cohort, where she has work projects based in Downtown LA. As a second year, Ana is researching the literature production on the Mexico-USA/Mexico-Guatemala border for her thesis project.

Andrew Mason Edwards is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Los Angeles. Before beginning his doctoral studies, he completed two interdisciplinary master's degrees, researching nineteenth- and twentieth-century Brazilian poetry for his MA in Latin American Studies at UCLA and Marxist feminist theory for his Ma ster Universitario en Estudios de Ge nero at la Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He now focuses on Latin American poetry and poetics in comparative contexts, working in English, Portuguese, Spanish, and Quechua. In his criticism, Andrew often reads literature alongside Marxist, feminist/queer, Indigenous, and critical theory, and he enjoys studying questions of lyric, genre, and voice through poetic lines. He is, also, an editor of Mester.

Bianca Mayer is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she researches poetry created through methods of recycling and appropriation in Brazil and Portugal. She is the author of Variações sobre a Saudade (2021): a Não Originalidade e a Poesia Pós-Tudo de Patrícia Lino, which is scheduled to be published later this year by Uturau Press.

Cristián Mora is a Ph.D. candidate in the Hispanic Languages & Literatures program at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his B.A. in Journalism from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in 2012, and he obtained his Master's degree in Film & Media Studies from the Washington University in St. Louis in 2018. His research interests are centered on Latin American culture, with a special emphasis on the representation of old age in contemporary Chilean cinema and literature. He is the co-founder of the digital magazine entrance.

Gabriela Cruz was born in Puebla, Mexico, she is a fourth-year Ph.D. student at UCLA who focuses her studies on indigenous productions such as film and literature, modern and contemporary Latin American dictatorships, and the role of the woman in the reconstruction of the memory, truth, and justice, Human Rights, and migration among others. Gabriela holds a M.A. in Spanish & Portuguese, from the University of California Davis (Class 2022), a B.A. Spanish & Portuguese with Honors, and Chicano Studies from the University of California Berkeley (Class 2020) and an Associates of Arts, Communication, Media, and Language (December 2017), Associates of Arts, Spanish for Transfer (June 2018) from Riverside City College, Riverside, CA.

Ícaro Carvalho is a Ph.D. candidate and Teaching Fellow at UCLA Department of Spanish and Portuguese. His main research focuses are Brazilian literature, urban spaces, history, and society.

John (Jack) Carter is an experimental phonologist and second-language Spanish learner
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José Galindo Benítez is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he has also completed a concentration in Gender Studies. Prior to that, he received an M.A. in Hispanic studies from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His research focuses on queer and trans struggles in contemporary Latin American literature and culture. He is interested in how Mexican writers, filmmakers, and visual artists depict the premature deaths of queer characters to critically understand the paradigms through which Mexican society has violently subjugated its sexually diverse subjects. Jose has served as Editor-in-Chief of Mester for the academic year 2023- 2024.

Mara Uriol-Garate is a Ph.D. student in the department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Davis. She received her M.A in Spanish with an emphasis in literature from UC Davis and her B.A. in Arts in Spanish from San Francisco State University. Her academic research interests are in contemporary Latin-American literature, memory studies, human rights, and Latin-American cultural studies. Mara is currently collaborating with the project Humanizing Deportation as part of the research team, and she is a Guest Contributing Editor with Mester, the academic journal of the graduate students of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Marianna Gómez Strenge Tórgo is a Brazilian translator and interpreter, graduated in English–Portuguese Translation from UFRGS in 2021. Marianna has worked as a freelancer and full-time translator across government, corporate, and academic sectors, with clients including Amazon, Dell, TikTok, and Google. Besides, Marianna is an independent multimedia artist, developing creative writing, photography, and design projects.

Nickolas Barba Izurieta was born and raised in Quito, Ecuador, before immigrating to the United States in 2013. He earned his undergraduate degree from UC Davis and later worked as a high school teacher in the San Fernando Valley as a member of Teach for America. He is now a graduate student in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at UCLA. His research focuses on Ecuadorian science fiction, particularly narratives that explore artificial intelligence, utopian and dystopian imaginaries, and automation. He currently serves as editor-in-chief of Párrafo, the department's literary magazine.

Pedro Cuevas is a doctoral candidate in Hispanic Studies at UCLA. Pedro's main interests are in contemporary Chilean culture, literature and cinema. He is writing his dissertation on Fernando Alegria's figure and literary work. During his graduate studies, he has been interested in contemporary Brazilian culture and novels.

Raquel Zandomeneghi is a graduate student at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Saraí Jaramillo is a Ph.D. student in Hispanic Languages and Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she has also completed a concentration in Gender Studies and Experimental Critical Theory. She received her B.A. in Comparative Literature from Brown University. Her interests include queer maternity, pregnancy, and embodiment in Latin American and Latinx literature. She is also interested in translation theory and practice and has published several translations of Spanish Golden Age plays in collabo- ration with the UCLA Working Group in Comedia.

Xana Furtado is a PhD student in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at UCLA. She earned both her M.A. in Luso-Brazilian Literature and her B.A. in Portuguese from Brigham Young University. Her research centers on nineteenth-century Brazilian literature, with a focus on archival work related to female writers from northeastern Brazil and Indigenous representation in the works of Maria Firmina dos Reis.