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Title
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Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7dj7g4rz

Journal
Mester, 53(0)

Author
Galindo Benitez, José

Publication Date
2025-05-15

DOI
10.5070/M3.47449

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NOTES ON EDITORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Biographical notes in alphabetical order

Adela McKay 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*.

Ana K. Arreguin Gómez is a Ph.D. student from the Spanish and Portuguese Departmentat the University of California, Los Angeles. She 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 and 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 Máster Universitario en Estudios de Género 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 *Mes*ter.

Bilal Choudhry se graduó recientemente de Columbia University, donde recibió su licenciatura con especializaciones en Estudios Hispánicos e Historia. Durante su tiempo en Columbia, se interesó por las teorías culturales y sociolingüísticas latinoamericanas y las imaginaciones religiosas y literarias del sur de Asia. Mientras se postula a la escuela de

posgrado, Bilal y su amiga están trabajando actualmente en una guía para personas que hablan urdu para aprender las bases de la lengua española.

Brenda 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.

Cláudia Maria Ceneviva Nigro é professora associada da Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de Mesquita Filho" (UNESP) na área de Inglês. Possui graduação em Letras, mestrado e doutorado em Teoria da Literatura, pela UNESP, Campus de São José do Rio Preto. Realizou estágio de pós-doutorado (2003) no Instituto de Estudos da Linguagem da Universidade Estadual de Campinas (IEL/UNICAMP). Livre-docente em Crítica Literária, credenciada no Programa de Pós-Graduação em Letras em 2004. Publicou livros, artigos em revistas especializadas e capítulos de livros. Tem experiência na área de Literatura, Linguística, com ênfase em Linguística Aplicada ao Ensino de Língua e Literatura, atuando principalmente nos seguintes temas: identidade, exclusão, gênero, religião, raça, tradução e cultura. É líder do Grupo de Pesquisa Gênero e Raça, cadastrado no CNPq e certificado pela UNESP.

Claudio Ramos is an Assistant Adjunct Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he earned his Ph.D. in June 2024. With over twenty-five years of multidisciplinary experience, his teaching and research have honed his writing, analytical, and communication skills. Passionate about films, Claudio has also contributed to major literary projects, including *Finding My Invincible Summer, Sylvio and Me: Encounter in the Exile, Matarazzo: A Travessia,* and *A Saga da Familia Klabin-Lafer*, demonstrating versatility across genres.

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 and 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 cofounder of the digital magazine entrance.cl.

Cristina G. Vázquez is a Ph.D. candidate from the Spanish and Portuguese Department at the University of California, Los Angeles. She received her M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese from the

University of California, Davis, where she also worked as an editor for *Brújula,* an interdisciplinary academic journal. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Peninsular and Mexican Literature and Culture through the Spanish & Portuguese Department at UCLA. Her research interests include the immigration counter-narrative(s) and identity discourse through a transatlantic approach from the Lavapiés neighborhood in Madrid, Spain, and the Little Haití neighborhood in Tijuana, México. Cristina served as Editor-in-Chief of *Mester* for the 2022-2023 academic year. She was also part of the 2019-2020 Urban Humanities Initiative (UHI) cohort and digital archive, where she holds a graduate certificate, and she is co-author of the *Mujer Migrante Memorial* 2021.

Daniel Martínez González holds a B.A. in Latin American Studies from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and an M.A. in Latin American Literature from the Complutense University of Madrid. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Hispanic Languages and Literature at Stony Brook University in New York, where he also teaches Spanish and Latin American culture. His interests are the aesthetic and cultural representations of sexualities, gender and identities in 20th and 21st century literature in Latin America and the Caribbean. His doctoral research focuses on the analysis of bodies of water in recent Latin American and Caribbean literature written by women.

Erin Mauffray, Ph.D. is an Assistant Adjunct Professor in Spanish linguistics at the Spanish & Portuguese Department, where her interests include Spanish as a heritage and second language, primarily in the areas of morphosyntax, pragmatics, and psycholinguistics, as well as pedagogy. Erin holds a B.A. in International Studies and Spanish from the Croft Institute for International Studies at the University of Mississippi, with a focus on social and cultural identity of Latin America. She completed her master's degree in Spanish linguistics at the University of Georgia with a focus on Spanish second language acquisition, pragmatics, and phonetics. Erin taught Spanish at Murrah High School in her home state of Mississippi for four years before pursuing her Ph.D. at UCLA. She is currently working on projects exploring the acquisition of complex morphosyntactic properties in heritage and second language Spanish with web-based experiments.

Gabriela Cruz was born in Puebla, Mexico, she is a second-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.

Hamideh Falahasl is a PhD student in Spanish Literature at the University of Houston, Department of Hispanic Studies, where she also works as a teaching assistant. She holds an M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of Tehran, Iran, and a B.A. in Spanish Language and Literature from Allameh Tabatabaei University. With over four years of professional experience as a translator, she specializes in translations between Persian and Spanish. She also served for one year as the director of Spanish translators at an official translation office. Currently residing in Houston, Hamideh was born in Iran. As a marginalized woman in her home country, her academic interests include wome's issues, intersectionality, migration, and gender violence. She is fluent in Persian, English, and Spanish.

Ícaro Carvalho is a Ph.D. student at University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses in literature, history and society.

Javier Ramírez Franco is a Ph.D. candidate in Spanish Literature in the Department of Hispanic Studies at the University of Houston. His research interests include trauma studies, queer theory, film & media studies, and performance studies. He earned his B.A. in Spanish, an M.A. in Spanish, and a graduate certificate in Latin American studies from California State University, Long Beach.

John (Jack) Carter is an experimental phonologist and second-language Spanish learner from rural Kentucky. His research focuses on second-language phonetics/phonology as well as the intersection of language and music. He earned his M.A. in Linguistic Theory and Typology (Sociolinguistics emphasis) at the University of Kentucky.

Jesús Duarte is a graduate student at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Jesús Galindo Benítez is a PhD candidate in Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Virginia. Prior to his doctorate, he obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His research focuses on Contemporary Latin American Literature and Cultural production, with a particular emphasis on trans and queer studies, which address the experiences of violence and marginalization of socially relegated sex-gender minorities. His doctoral project examines how literature, film and other forms of cultural production depict the lives of trans and queer people who are systematically excluded and displaced by power dynamics and relationships. The aim of his work is to contribute to a critical understanding of the experiences of these marginalized gender minorities, who are subjected to violence and economic and social precariousness within the Latin American context. Likewise, Jesús seeks to investigate the social narratives that instrumentalize violence, a phenomenon

that constantly pervades the lives of sex-gender minorities.

José F. 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. José has served as Editor-in-Chief of *Mester* for the academic year 2023-2024.

Luiz Henrique Moreira Soares é doutor e mestre em Letras pelo Programa de Pós-Graduação em Letras da Universidade Estadual Paulista "Júlio de Mesquita Filho" (UNESP), Campus de São José do Rio Preto. Possui graduação em Letras/Inglês pela Universidade Estadual do Norte do Paraná (UENP) Campus de Jacarezinho, e Pedagogia pela Universidade Anhembi Morumbi. Integrante do Grupo de Pesquisa Gênero e Raça, cadastrado no Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq). Seus interesses de pesquisa incluem as literaturas produzidas por mulheres transexuais, as literaturas contemporâneas latino-americanas e os estudos queer/cuir.

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.

Oscar Galindo earned a Bachelor's degree in Arts and a minor in Art History from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he concentrated in contemporary painting, photography and design. He seeks to pursue his M.A. studies in the future.

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 the Fernando Alegria's figure and literary work. During his graduate studies, he has been interested in contemporary Brazilian culture and novels.

Raúl Romo (he/él/ele) is a PhD student in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese

at the University of California, Irvine. He earned a bachelor's degree in design from the University of California, Davis (2016) and a master's degree in Spanish from California State University, Bakersfield (2023). His research focuses on twenty-first-century Latin American literature and culture, particularly contemporary representations of queerness in literary, film, and artistic productions in Mexico and the United States. He examines occupations of space and representations of resistance in film narratives, street performances, literature, public and private archives, and other media. Romo's methodological approach is guided by intermediality, drawing from his experiences in artistic and curatorial spheres in Mexico City. Raúl co-organized the XXIX Annual Mexican Studies Conference Juan Bruce-Novoa and served as co-curator for the 2024 UCI Latin American Film Festival.

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

Ribamar José de Oliveira Junior is a Professor at School of Communication of Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). PhD in Communication and Culture.

Verónica Garcia Moreno is a Spanish scholar, journalist, and award-winning writer. Shehas been faculty in several universities in the USA and she is a Teaching Assistant Professor at Montana State University. Verónica obtained a Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature at UCLA, a MA in Applied Linguistic Cyberpragmatics at the University of Leon, and a MA in Islamic Studies at the University of Sevilla. Her research explores the Islamic Arab element in the articulation of the Hispanic identities and peripheral nationalisms, the liquid frontier of al-Andalus, and the power of the image in the configuration of Arab otherness. Her current research focuses on the works of Rafael Cansinos as a translator of the Persian poetsinto Spanish and his influence on Borges' orientalism. Verónica is an active member of the Spanish Iranian Society and the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society-Latina.

Waldo N. Díaz holds a BA in Film Production from California State University (CSUS) and a Master's degree in Spanish and Latin American Literature from California State University, Sacramento. He is a member of the *Escritores del Nuevo Sol* writers' group in Sacramento and the *Nagual* theater group. He has participated in conferences at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Kansas, and won second place in the *Voces de Sacramento* contest with his poem *De mi lengua*. His research focuses on Spanish and Latin American Literature, Cinematic Theory, Gender Studies, Theater, Cultural Studies of Mexico and Latin America, Bilingualism, Gastronomic Culture, Indigenous Studies, and Immigration.