

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

**Karina Alma, PhD**

(formerly Oliva Alvarado)

November 2020

7353 Bunche Hall  
Chicana, Chicano and Central American Studies  
UCLA  
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### **EDUCATION**

PhD Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2007  
Dissertation: *Transnational Lives and Texts: Writing and Theorizing US / Central American Subjectivities*

UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow, UCLA, English Department, 2007-2009

PhD. Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2007

M.A. Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2005

B.A. English, University of California, Berkeley, 2002

M.F.A. Creative Writing, Mount Saint Mary's University, 2018

### **Lecturer UCLA 2013-2019**

César E. Chávez Department of Chicana, Chicano and Central American Studies  
University of California, Los Angeles

### **RESEARCH FOCUS**

Intercultural Latina/o/x relations; hemispheric women's narratives; feminisms; gender-racial constructs; anti-Blackness; cultural production and memory; interdisciplinary methods; social death; Central America and diasporas. U.S. Central American studies.

## **PUBLISHED WORKS**

### **Coedited Book**

Alvarado, Karina Oliva, Alicia Ivonne Estrada and Ester Hernandez, editors, *U.S. Central Americans: Reconstructing Memories, Struggles and Communities of Resistance*, Arizona University Press, Spring 2017, Second printing 2018 (258 pages).

### **Refereed Research Articles**

“On Salvadoran Diasporic Poetry: William Archila, Mario Escobar and Javier Zamora, Interviews.” *ISTMO Revista virtual de estudios literarios y culturales centroamericanos*, Vol.34. 2018 (10,584 words). <http://istmo.denison.edu/n34/foro/03.html>  
[http://istmo.denison.edu/n34/foro/03\\_oliva\\_karina\\_form.pdf](http://istmo.denison.edu/n34/foro/03_oliva_karina_form.pdf)

“Cultural Memory and Making by U.S. Central Americans.” *Latino Studies* 15:4 (2017), pp. 476-497. <https://rdcu.be/b69wK>

“The Boo of Viramontes’s Cafe: Retelling Ghost Stories, Central American Representing Social Death.” *Studies in 20th & 21st Century Literature*, Vol. 37: Iss. 2, Article 6 (2013), pp. 77-93. <https://doi.org/10.4148/2334-4415.1806>

“An Interdisciplinary Reading of Chicana/o and (U.S.) Central American Internarrations.” *Latino Studies* 11:3 (2013), pp 366-387. <https://rdcu.be/b69w2>

### **Book Chapters**

“A Gynealogy of Cigua Resistance: La Ciguanaba, Prudencia Ayala and Leticia Hernández-Linares in Conversation” in *U.S. Central Americans: Reconstructing Memories, Struggles and Communities of Resistance* by Alvarado et al, Arizona University Press (2017), pp. 98-126.

### **Original Book Translation**

From Spanish to English. *Afrocubanas: History, Thought, and Cultural Practices*, Edited and introduced by Devyn Spence Benson, original text edited by Daisy Rubiera Castillo and Inés María Martiatu Terry. London: Rowman & Littlefield International Press, 2020 (398 pages).

### **Work in Progress**

*(U.S.) Central American Countermemories and Counterpoetics Challenging Social Death.*  
Manuscript in preparation.

## Encyclopedia

Oliva, Karina. "Elias Miguel Muñoz" in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States*, Vol. 3, Edited by Suzanne Oboler and Deena J. González, Oxford Press (2005) pp. 195-197.

Oliva, Karina. "Elias Miguel Muñoz" in the section "Cuban and Cuban American Authors" in *Latino and Latina Writers*, Edited by Alan West-Durán, vol. 2, Charles Scribner's Sons (2004) pp. 681-698.

<https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX1385800013/GVRL?u=uclosangeles&sid=GVRL&xid=028dd2d5>

## Published Poetry and Short Story (Selection)

"Have You Ever Been in Love?" Short story in *Label Me Latina/o, Journal of Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries Latino Literary Production*. Spring 2018 Vol. VIII, (5 pages).

<http://labelmelatin.com/> , <https://labelmelatin.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Karina-Alma-Have-You-Ever-Been-in-Love.pdf>

"On Parallel Lines"; "Early Memory of Light"; "I've Been Told That Without You I'd Be Nothing"; "Great Grandmother" poems in *Wandering Song: Central American Writing in the United States*, Edited by Leticia Hernández Linares, Rubén Martínez and Héctor Tobar, Northwestern University Press (2017), pp. 146-152.

"By the Tree" poem in *Coiled Serpent: Poets Arising from the Cultural Quakes & Shifts in Los Angeles*, Edited by Neelanjana Banerjee, Daniel A. Olivas, Ruben J. Rodriguez, Tia Chucha's Press (2016), pp. 27-28.

"No Love Train for Immigrants"; "Four Ways to Get to My Home; Our Neighborhood"; "The Untouchable Reprieve"; "Warning, You Might Want to Drop This Class" poems in *¡Ban This! The BSP Anthology of Xican@ Literature*, Edited by Santino J. Rivera, Broken Sword Publications (2012) pp. 155-175.

Oliva, Karina, "Agua del Sol, Tree of Life" poem in *Mujeres de Maiz Zine* Issue Seven, LA: West Coast Arthouse (2009) p. 38.

Oliva, Karina, "Emanations of Mother" poem in *Mujeres de Maiz Zine* Issue Four, LA: West Coast Arthouse (2006) p. 38.

## UNPUBLISHED WORK

Oliva Alvarado, Karina and Maya Chinchilla, editors. *Desde El Epicentro (From the Epicenter): An Anthology of American Central American Poems*. Los Angeles. 2007, (82 pages).

Oliva, Karina, *Rise*, Chapbook purchased by the Ethnic Studies library at UC Berkeley. CA: UC Berkeley, 2004.

## NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLISHED WORK

“I’ve Been Told That Without You, I’d Be Nothing” and “Me Han Dicho Que, Sin Ti No Sería Nada” poem in the English program and Spanish program for the exhibit “Behind the Mask,” Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, (March 2020), pp. 12-13.

“Entrevista, Declaración de los Jóvenes de Homies Unidos/ Interview” Homies Unidos Youth Statement for the Central American Youth Conference media packet. Karina Oliva Alvarado and Ester Hernandez, cowriters. September – December 2017.

Afterword. *The Cha Cha Files, A Chapina Poetica* by Maya Chinchilla. Korima Press (2014), pp. ci-ciii.

Foreword. “Soldadera de Amor” *Mujeres de Maíz* Issue 9, Los Angeles: West Coast Arthouse (2011), p. 2.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

UC President’s Postdoctoral Fellow, UCLA, English Department, 2007-2009.

## CITATIONS AND REFERENCES TO MY PERSON OR WORK

Gordon, Lewis R. “Favorite Decolonial Artists.” *The LA Review of Books*. 2019.

Bibler, Susan Coutin. *Exiled Home, Salvadoran Transnational Youth in the Aftermath of Violence*. Durham: Duke University Press. 2016.

Stoltz-Chinchilla, Norma and Nora Hamilton. “Identity Formation Among Central American Americans.” Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration. Los Angeles: USC. November 2013.

Arias, Arturo. “EpiCentro: The Emergence of a New Central American-American Literature.” Durham: Duke University Press. Winter 2012.

Bibler, Susan Coutin. “Re/Membering the Nation: Gaps and Reckoning Within Biographical Accounts of Salvadoran Émigrés.” *Anthropological Quarterly*. 2011.

Menjívar, Cecilia. “Immigrant Art as Liminal Expression: The Case of Central Americans.” *Art in the Lives of Immigrant Communities in the United States*, edited by Paul DiMaggio and Patricia Fernandez-Kelly. Rutgers. 2010.

Rodriguez, Ana Patricia. “The Fiction of Solidarity: Transfronteristas Feminisms and Anti-Imperialists Struggles in Central American Transnational Narratives.” *Feminist Studies*, 34 (1/2). 2008.

## INVITED TALKS

“U.S. Empire and Double-Speak on Central America” University of California San Diego. Ethnic Studies Department. March 2020.

“Topics in U.S. Central American Studies” De Anza College. Office of Equity, Social Justice and Multicultural Education. May 2019.

“Heritage of Resistance: *U.S. Central Americans*” California State University Channel Islands. Chicano Studies Program. April 2018.

“Hybrid Indigeneities: Redefining Latinidad Beyond Dualisms” Bard College at Simon’s Rock, Massachusetts. Taught a three-hour seminar and one-hour talk. Sociology Division. November 2014.

“Interdiscursive Identities: U.S. Central American and Chicana/o Cross Cultural Representations in Chicano and U.S. Central American Texts” Chicano Studies, Cal State University at Northridge. May 2013.

“Central Americans in the U.S.” Latin American Institute, UCLA. Led two workshops on Central American cultures (Session I), and U.S. Central American literature (Session II) for k-12 educators. June 2013.

“Salvadoran Women Writers in the United States” Cal State University Los Angeles, Nov. 2010.  
“Exile and Diaspora” UCLA Writers Series. University of California, Los Angeles. April 2010.

“Epicentro and *Transverse*” University of California, Irvine. April 2010.

“Desde El Epicentro: US Central American Poetry Anthology” California State University, Los Angeles. May 2009.

“The Traumatized Temporalities of Exile, Immigration, and Transnationalism” Department of Chicana/o Studies, UC Irvine. May 2009.

“Desde El Epicentro/ From the Epicenter” California State University, Los Angeles. May 2008.

“Central America and its Diaspora” Chicana/o Studies 188-4, Chicana/o Studies Dept., University of California, Los Angeles. April 2008.

“Desde El Epicentro” California State University, Long Beach. November 2007.

## REFEREED CONFERENCES AND PANELS

## **Conferences / Symposia**

Terceras Jornadas Internacionales de Estudios Afrocentroamericanos (Third Annual International Conference on Afro-Central American Studies). Participant. Roatan, Honduras. November 2019.

NACCS. “*U.S. Central Americans: Reconstructing Memories, Struggles and Communities of Resistance*” Moderator and participant. UC Irvine. March 2017.

LSA. “Latinos/as Passing: Challenging national and gender boundaries” Panelist. Pasadena, July 7-9, 2016.

## **Panels Organized**

LASA. “Community Struggles and Victories Against Anti-Central American U.S. Policies and Stances On and Off University Campuses.” Roundtable, organizer and participant. Vancouver, Canada. 2021.

AWP. “Writing Diasporas: Californian Guatemalan and Salvadoran Poetics” Moderator and panelist. Los Angeles. March 30-April 2, 2016.

MALCS Summer Institute. “Resiliency, Healing and Transformation: Central American Experiences in The U.S.” New Mexico State University, New Mexico. July 20, 2015.

## **Papers Presented**

NACCS. “Voicing Indigenous Womanist Poetics Through Salvadoran, Salvi, Chicana, Chingona Xnationalist Migrations” San Antonio, Texas. March 2013.

Lozano Long: A LLILAS - CMAS Collaboration — Central Americans and the Latina/o Landscape: New Configurations of Latino America. “Telling Ghost Stories, Exploring a Central American Representation in a Chicana/Latina Narrative” University of Texas at Austin. February 22-25, 2012.

MLA. “William Archila’s *The Art of Exile* (2009), a poetic consciousness of exile and the global subject” Los Angeles. 2011.

Undocumented Hispanic Migration. “Central American Undocumented Status as Non-existence in Comparative Discussion to Orlando Patterson’s *Slavery and Social Death*” Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut. October 16-18, 2009.

Ethnic Studies. “Heterogeneous Time, Seven Generations, and Commodified Time” University of CA, San Diego. Ethnic Studies. Spring 2007.

LASA. “The Indigenous Abject and Displaced Mother, Transforming Self and Nation through El Salvador’s *La Siguanaba*” Puerto Rico. Spring 2006.

RAZA Women. “Women’s Art and Spirituality Workshop” University of California Los Angeles. Spring 2005.

NACCS. “Central Americans in Chicano Studies” First Central American Caucus. New Mexico. Spring 2004.

NACCS. “Spoken Word and Poetry as Alternative Forms for Education” New Mexico. Spring 2004.

### **Discussant**

*Chicano Moratorium 44 Years Later, La Lucha Sigue!* Salesian Community Center, Los Angeles, August 23, 2014.

### **Moderator**

LASA. “¡Centroamerica Resiste!: Interventionist Pasts, Disavowed Presents, Joyous Futures.” Moderator. Vancouver, Canada. 2021.

1st Annual Central American Studies Symposium at UCLA. Panel 2, “The Diaspora.” June 2, 2019.

*Global Modernities*, Conference. Moderator. CSULA, May 3-4, 2013.

### **Campus Talks**

CSR Presentations and Roundtable, UCLA. *U.S. Central Americans: Reconstructing Memories, Struggles, and Communities of Resistance*. April 10, 2017.

### **Conference Organizer**

Lead organizer. First Annual Symposium on the Central American Black Liberation Movement. The case of El Salvador and Mexico Antiblack denials. Featuring Dr. M. Herrera, Dr. H. Erquicia, Dr. M.A. Pérez Jiménez and Dr. J.P. Peña Vicenteño. TBA.

Lead co-organizer *Performing Borders in L.A. Conference*. October 20 and 21, 2018. Creative Writing Department. Mount Saint Mary’s University. Director J. Payne.

Organized *Latina/o and Latin American Writers in Los Angeles* Conference, October 1 and 2, 2016. Creative Writing Department. Mount Saint Mary’s University. Director J. Payne.

### **Community Organizations**

Central American International Film Festival. Selection committee; Organizer; Moderator. Los Angeles Film School. November 2018.

Homies Unidos. *Annual Youth Conference*. December 2017.

## **TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **University of California Los Angeles, Chicana and Chicano Studies 2013-2019**

Chicana/o History and Culture, CS10A  
Fall 2020. Synchronous/asynchronous 534 students.

U.S. Central American History and Culture, CS20  
Spring 2019, Spring 2020

Migrating U.S./Central American Cultural Production, CS153C  
Winter 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017

U.S. Central American Narratives, CS153D  
Winter 2018, Winter 2017

Central American Racial Constructions, CS153B  
Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016

Chicanos in Film, CS M114  
Summer 2019, Summer 2018, Summer 2017, Summer 2016, Spring 2015

U.S. Central American Afro/Indigeneities, CS188-1  
Spring 2016

Migrating U.S. Central American Cultural Production, CS188-2  
Winter 2015

U.S. Central American Textual Subjectivities, CS188-1  
Fall 2015

Politics of Crisis: Migration, Identity and Religion, CS M126  
Summer 2015, Summer 2014

Contemporary Issues Among Chicanas, CS M145  
Spring 2015

Central Americans in the U.S., CS153  
Winter 2014, Spring 2013

Chicana/o Folklore, CS M109  
Fall 2014



Race, Gender and U.S. Labor, CS M128  
Winter 2013

Disposable People: US Deportation and Repatriation Campaigns, CS152  
Fall 2013

Latina/o Families in the U.S., CS191  
Winter 2012

### **Graduate Courses**

U.S. Central American Racial-Gendered Constructs and Cultural Diversity, CS291  
Fall 2018, Fall 2016

U.S. Central Americans Making Art and Memory, CS291  
Fall 2015

### **University of California Los Angeles, English**

Chicana and Chicano Literature Since El Movimiento, 1970 to Present, CS M105C  
Fall 2015

### **California State University Long Beach, Sociology**

Race, Class, Gender  
Spring 2015

Central American and Caribbean Peoples in the U.S.  
Spring 2015

### **Cal State University Los Angeles, Chicana/o Studies**

Chicano Studies 111  
Fall 2012, Spring 2012

Environmental Racism and Justice, online  
Spring 2012, Winter 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2010

Contemporary Chicano Literature  
Winter 2011

Latina/o Communities in the United States  
Fall 2008, Winter 2009

Central American Experience in the U.S.

Fall 2008

**Scripps College, English**

Central American Diasporic Narratives and the Construction of New Latina/o Identities  
Academic year 2008-2009

**University of California Santa Barbara, Chicana and Chicano Studies**

Chicana/o Studies 142, Salvadoran Diaspora in the U.S.  
Spring 2009

Chicana/o Studies 153, Queer Latina/o Identities, Communities, Theories  
Spring 2009

**University of California Berkeley, Ethnic Studies**

Chicana/o and Latina/o Literature  
Summer 2006

Ethnic Literature in the U.S.  
Summer 2005, Summer 2004

Asian American Literature  
Fall 2004

**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

**Reviewer**

*Latino Studies* (2017, 2018)

*Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture* (2018)

*Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature* (2017)

Central American Studies Working Group, UCLA, Co-chair

Central American Studies Working Group, UCLA, 2017-current.

Developed undergraduate and graduate courses on U.S. Central American topics, Chicana/o Studies Department, UCLA, 2016.

Co-wrote *Entrevista, Declaración de los Jóvenes de Homies Unidos/ Interview, Homies Unidos Youth Statement* for Central American Youth Conference media packet. September – December 2017.

Mentor, William Ramirez, U.S. Guatemalan scholar. Review of iterations of his article for *Latino Studies*, Jan 2017-current.

### **Keynotes**

MEChA: Raza Transfer Day, UCLA, May 13, 2016

Mesa Cooperativa: Bienvenida, CSUF, September 30, 2014

MEChA: Raza Transfer Day, UCLA, May 10, 2013, and 2015

STOMP (Student Transfer Opportunity & Mentorship Program), UCLA, April 26, 2013

MALCS Keynote artist and month-long art exhibit. "Against Fear and Terror: Una Nueva Consciencia Sin Fronteras / A New Consciousness Without Borders." CSULA, August 2011.

25th Annual Raza Day, California State University San Jose, Spring 2005.

### **LANGUAGES**

Fully Bilingual in Spanish and English

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

LASA, Latin American Studies Association

LSA, Latina/o Studies Association

MALCS, Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (translation is Women Active in Letters and Social Change)

MELUS, The Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature in the United States

NACCS, National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies