UCLA
Commencement 2021
César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies

Saturday
June 12, 2021
10:00 am
Virtual Graduation
Welcome and Message to Graduates
Leisy Abrego, Professor and Chair

DOCTORAL GRADUATING
STUDENT ROLL CALL

BACHELOR OF ARTS GRADUATING STUDENT
ROLL CALL
Dear Chicana/o and Central American Studies Graduates,

CONGRATULATIONS! ¡Felicitaciones! We are absolutely honored to witness and celebrate your hard work and the love from your family and friends who helped you get here! Teaching and learning from you is one of the most rewarding aspects of our job as faculty and it is a true pleasure to share this celebration with you. Because of the nature of our areas of study and because of the teaching philosophy that guides many of us, we have been privileged to learn together every time you have enriched discussions by bringing in your experiences and analysis. Thank you for your collaboration as we co-created spaces of learning, belonging, and empowerment in the classrooms, hallways, and zoom rooms of UCLA.

Today you are joining a network of hundreds of UCLA Chicana/o and Central American Studies alums all over this region and the world. Like you, our alums opted to major or minor in our department because they are committed to social justice. We often hear from them about how their background in Chicana/o and Central American Studies enhanced their ability to navigate multiple landscapes, problem-solve, and build coalitions to change the world. As you continue to grow and make your mark, it is our hope that you, too, will keep us informed of what your community is facing and how you are making a difference.

Our faculty and staff are enormously proud of your accomplishment and take great pride in having been a part of your experience and education at UCLA. Thank you for that privilege. Stay in touch with us! Once you’ve had a chance to reflect on your Bruin journey, send us your feedback and help us continue to fulfill our mission for social justice in the training, new learning initiatives, and opportunities for future students in our department.

For now, enjoy the moment, celebrate your hard work, mark this milestone with your loved ones, and take the time to intentionally name for yourself: what does it mean for you to have graduated from one of the best institutions of higher learning in the world? How will you now honor yourself and your communities? On our end, we are committed to the freedom and empowerment of the same communities as you, and your success is a win for all of us. Today we salute you!

Leisy Abrego
Professor & Department Chair
Angélica Becerra

Angélica Becerra is a queer immigrant artist, podcast producer & scholar of political graphics from Jalisco, Mexico. Her research focuses on the digital as a shift in the means of production, exhibition, and networking for contemporary Latinx artist-activists, and the ways artists form networks of care in digital space. She is the co-creator of the podcast “Anzaldüingit” along with Dr. Jack Caraves, where both focus on navigating life as queer Latinx individuals in academia. With over half a million listens, the podcast has been used as a teaching tool for underrepresented students and was featured in the 2019 Google Youth Tech Summit. Her artwork is primarily portraiture, with a focus on Black Indigenous and women of color activists. Her art has been featured in VICE and Latina Magazine and exhibited at the Los Angeles Design Festival and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History. Recently, she was a part of the Adobe Create Forward campaign and a beta tester for the Adobe Illustrator software for the iPad, her latest collaboration is a series of portraits for the Investigation Discovery channel, a part of #IDxPOV, a project to give voice to those who have been impacted by crime or the criminal justice system and whose stories are not typically heard.

**Title of Dissertation:** Envisioning A Chicana Radical Aesthetic: Digital Artivism In The 21st Century

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Maylei Blackwell

Chantiri Duran Resendiz

Chantiri Duran Resendiz is an immigrant and first generation student. Chantiri earned her BA in Development Studies from UC Berkeley. At UCLA, Chantiri received various fellowships including the UCOP Dissertation Year Fellowship, Eugene Cota Robles Fellowship and the UC Collaborate to Promote Immigrant Student Equity Fellowship. Her dissertation is at the center of Critical Ethnic Studies, social movement, higher education and immigration scholarship. Chantiri has accepted a full time position as a Senior Research Associate at Bright Research Group, a research, evaluation, and capacity building firm in Oakland, CA, where she will be working as an applied researcher and evaluator in the areas of criminal justice reform, community health and youth empowerment.

**Title of Dissertation:** Understanding the institutionalization of undocumented student support in higher education using a neoliberal multiculturalism framework

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Maylei Blackwell
Maxwell E Greenberg

Drawing from his lived experiences growing up in the San Francisco-Bay area, Maxwell Greenberg explores the relationships between whiteness, Jewishness and land in the American West. His dissertation project, "The Frontier Jew: Entrepreneurship, Colonization, and Memory between the US and Mexico" considers how Spanish imperial peripheries, the American Frontier and the US-Mexico border created the conditions for Jewish interpolation into settler colonial projects across the Americas, and Palestine. He has developed curriculum and community programming for Jewish museums across the American Southwest and his scholarship has been published in Jewish Currents and Protocols, with a forthcoming book chapter through Brandeis University Press. Maxwell is the 2021-22 Friedman Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Jewish, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Title of Dissertation:** The Frontier Jew: Entrepreneurship, Colonization, and Memory between the US and Mexico

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Robert Chao Romero

Nadia Zepeda

Nadia Zepeda is a Chicana from Orange County, CA. She received her BA in Chicano/Latino Studies & Spanish from Cal State Long Beach. Nadia holds an MA in Chicana/o Studies from UCLA. Her dissertation, “Healing Justice in Chicana/x Feminist Organizing” centers sustainable Chicana/x feminist organizing practices and holistic community wellness as healing justice. Her research and commitment to holistic wellness exemplify her academic interests and the investments she has in visions of transformative justice. Nadia has accepted a Tenure Track position in the Department of Chicana/o Studies at California State University, Fullerton.

**Title of Dissertation:** Healing Justice in Chicana/x Feminist Organizing

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Maylei Blackwell
Rudy Mondragón’s research looks at the sport of boxing and the ways in which black and brown boxers politically and culturally express themselves via the most important, yet understudied component of the sport: the ring entrance. He has written on the sport of boxing for Remezcla, We Are Mitú, and LA Taco and has been featured on ESPN, Fox Sports, CNN, Bleacher Report, Washington Post, New York Times, and other news platforms. Academically, Mondragón has written a film review of the boxing documentary “Champs” for the Journal of Sports History and a book review of Louis Moore’s I Fight for a Living: Boxing and the Battle for Black Manhood, 1880-1915, for the International Review for the Sociology of Sport. He is currently working on Rings of Dissent: Boxing and the Performance of Rebellion, co-edited with Gaye Theresa Johnson and David J. Leonard and “Sporting Representations of El Salvador’s First World Champion: El Famoso and his Boxing Robe as Material Culture” for the Routledge Handbook of American Material Culture Studies (Forthcoming 2022).

He is the recipient of the prestigious University of California Cota Robles Fellowship, UC Berkeley Oral History Center Fellowship, UCLA Gold Shield Alumnae Graduate Fellowship, Fellow of the Smithsonian Latino Museum Studies Program, NCAA Ethnic Minority Enhancement Postgraduate Award, and Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports-Scholar Award.

In the fall of 2021, Mondragón will start a Visiting Assistant Professor position in Sport and Society at Pitzer College.

**Title of Dissertation:** “Miles Before the Bell: Race, Agency, and Sporting Entitlements in Boxing”

**Dissertation Advisor:** Dr. Gaye Theresa Johnson
2021 Bachelor of Arts Majors

Chelssea Adame
Esmeralda Aldaz
Josetina Celsa Alvarado
Day Angeles
Ana Antonio López
Diana Avila *(H)
Lesly Johana Ayala
Santos Ayon
Enoc I Baeza
Tiffany Barba Soto
Alexis D Barragan
Jennifer Sandra Becerra
Kevin Alexis Beltran Rivas
Armando Berumen
Elizabeth Blancas **
Carlos Antonio Borrayo
Adriana Bravo
Erick Mitchell Cabrera
Leticia Isabel Camacho
Karina Elizabeth Camarena
Maribella Carolina Cantu
Daniel Jose Carranza
Kathy Castillo Escutia
Amado Aztlan Castillo *(H)
Elena Patricia Castro Beltran
Celeste S Castro
Jesus Andres Cortez
Christian Garcia
Kaylee De Anda **
Helen Maria De Leon Alvarez
Ana Bertha Delgado
Juan Carlos Diaz
Daisy Dorantes
Christopher Ricardo Duran
Jonathan Escalante
Graciela Monserratt Espinoza

Brianna Estrada **(H)
Zahra Yolanda Estrada
Andrea Feregrino-Rodriguez
Sara Fernandez
Cynthia Flores *(H)
Kate Teresa Galeana
Jennifer Garcia Lopez
Cassandra Xitlali Garcia
Daniela Garcia
Jennie Garcia
Jose Armando Garcia
Oscar A Gaytan *
Koryn Ahilyn Gomez
Pricila Gomez
Jennifer Gonzalez Meza **
Jasmin Erika Gonzalez
Johana Guatemala
Adriana Pamela Guerra Garcia
Jorge Luis Guerra
Stephanie Guerrero
Graciela Gutierrez
Monserrat Hernandez Garcia
Joselin Hernandez Salome *
Rosmin Hernandez
Jailene J Herrera Hernandez
Dana Lizett Herrera *(H)
Alejandro Juarez-Ugalde
Veronica Leal **
Gema Rubi Limeta
Arlene Lizeth Linares
Brenda Selena Llamas ***
Norma Aracely Lopez Matias
Iveth Lopez Obeso
Aida Najette Lopez
Mayra Griselda Luis Antonio
Erendira Luna-Hernandez
2021 Bachelor of Arts Majors

José Marín
Bianca Stella Martín (H)
Carmen Y Martinez
Christopher Vazquez Martinez
Evelyn Carolina Martinez
Zuleika Martinez
Kimberly Melendez
Lisa Marie Mendez
Pricila Mendoza
Jonathan A Menjivar
Isa Moreno **
Cristian Alexander Navarro
Karla Itzell Ocampo Arizmendi
Nancy Ocana
Anthony Elias Olmedo *
Leslie Mariah Ontiveros
Esmeralda Orozco Sanchez
Janette Ivette Ortega
Jennifer Nancy Ortega-Carrillo
Jayme Matias Perez, Jr
Jorge Alberto Pimentel Solorio
Daniel Ponce
Karen Casandra Quezada
Kimberly Maria Quijada
Isaias Ramirez *
Magally Resendez
Roberto Reyes, Jr
Nicole Rios
Diana Rivera Rios *
Gregorio Rodriguez
Jesus Armando Rodriguez
Brenda Lizbeth Rodriguez-Juarez
Emely Yanderi Rosales
Katerín Yuliana Rosales
Jessica Elizabeth Sanchez Galvan
Crystal Sanchez

Jennifer G Sanchez
Cesar Sandoval
Fabiola Santiago-Garrido
Jair Ivan Sanvicente Guerrero
Joaquin Alvarez Silva
Jocelyn Silva
Lizet Silva
Nicol Silva
Juan Manuel Solis *(H)
Luis Dario Sotelo
Jaquelin Tafolla
Mandie Torres ***(H)
Diana Trujano
Flor Uribe
Jessica Jaqueline Vaca
Lupita Valencia
Andrew Valles
JosueL Vasquez-Guzman
Betsabe Vazquez
Carlos Joel Velador
Nayeli Guadalupe Velarde
Eduardo Velazquez
Anthony Bryan Ventura
Arisbeth Carolina Verduzco
Lizbeth Villar-Aguirre
Maribel Villegas *
Andres Garcia Ybarra
Michael Chavez Ybarra
Nuvia Zavala
Alexandra Zuniga

HONORS KEY
H College Honors
* Cum Laude
** Magna Cum Laude
*** Summa Cum Laude
C Chancellor’s Service Award
2021 Minors

Angela Jeanette Acosta
Mariana Guadalupe Aguilar Cortes
Yesenia Yasmin Aguilar
Juliana Rubi Alonzo Alvarez
Celeste Alonzo
Rebecca Clare Altshuler
Lilia Noemy Antuna
Cynthia E Aragon
Joanna M Arredondo
Myranda Denise Arreola
Evelyn Arrieta
Alexander Ayala
Ita Andehui Ayuso Velasco
Yvette Aida Barrera
Stephanie Yesenia Batres
Mauro Bautista Flores
Alexis Yvette Bravo
Belen Bravo
Jennifer Bribiesca
Sara Caballero
Efrain Cabral, Jr
Citlaly Cahuantzi
Maricarmen Campos
Jorge Isai Cardenas
Aylin Araseli Carranza
Selina Castaneda-Gutierrez
Khrisley Jisselle Castillo
Daniela Castro-Alvarez
Jose Adalberto Cervantes, Jr
Michelle Athena Cervantes
Rose Arlene Chavez
Vanessa Ariel Chavira
Kimberly Marie Cienfuegos
Michelle Cisneros
David Benjamin Cruz
Edgar de Gracia
Joseline De Leon
Stephanie Delgado Borrayo
Alejandra Kukuli Delgado
Eduardo Diaz
Hector Diaz
Dimitri Donnel English
Andrea Feregrino-Rodriguez
Brayan Steve Flores Mejia
Alexis Flores
Jasmine Flores
Tru Haylee Marie Flores
Monique Alessandra Fraile
Vanessa Gaeta Garcia
Carlos Israel Galindo Lopez
Leticia Garcia Arango
Brenda N. Garcia
Denise Garcia
Leslie Garcia
Yuliana L Garcia
Beatriz Garcia-Diaz
Carolina Concepcion Gomez
Raul Gomez
Cytlalli Soneli Gonzalez
Jasmin Gabrielle Gonzalez
Melissa Kristine Gonzalez
Albino Guatemala
Mariah Alexis Guerrero
Aidee Guzman
Ashley Thays Guzman
Abigail Hernandez
Aly Michaela Hernandez
Andrea Guadalupe Hernandez
Ashley Hernandez
Kimberly Herrera Rodriguez
Luis Adrian Ibarra
Adriana Jaramillo Castillo
Samantha Lucia Jimenez Ramos
Jessica Elizabeth Jimenez
Julaina Rose Juarez
Kimberly Jean Kilps
Benjamin Lemus
Josceline Tatiana Lima Rosales
Jimmy Mitchel Lira
Natalie Llamas
Jessica Lopez
Stephanie Yvonne Lopez
Elizabeth Martinez
Johanna P Medina
Noelia Medina-Flores
Aida Elena Mejia
Julio Jesus Mena Bernal
Kevin Mendez Lopez
Luis Mendez
Charisma Michelle Menendez
Silvia Guadalupe Meza-Rendon
Ashley Rashell Michel
Charleen Elizabeth Molina
Anthony A Monroy-Cruz
Kaitlin Andrea Montalvan
Jennifer Montes Flores
Melanie Moreno
Lorna Taylor Morris
Alyssa Giselle Munguia
Melissa Najera
Giselle Olivares
Rosamari Orduna
Yailin Orozco
Alejandro Ortega
Gabriel Borges Ortiz
Miranda Ortiz
Sabrina Noelle Ortiz
Francisco Javier Osuna Zayas
Angelica Berenice Pech Cortes
Laura Elena Perez
Jazmin Thalia Perez
Jesus Perez
Laura Elena Peña
Madison Dolores Quiroz
Kyle Christopher Radwanski Ortega
Diana Paola Ramirez Munoz
Angie Del Socorro Ramirez
Jasmin Ramirez
Oyuki Ariana Ramos
Naomi Riley
Angel Rios
Jason Alexander Rivas
Nathan Richard Rivas
Liset Margarita Rivera Garcia
Angelica Rivera
Janet Elizabeth Rivera
Camila Ximena Robles
Aidee Rodriguez
Elisa Judith Rojas Palato
Jazmin Paola Rojas Resendiz
Maria Celeste Roman Gamez
Jamie J Roman Nunez
Randy Romo
Jisselle Rosales
Kathia Berenice Rosas Diaz
Leslie Salcedo
Melisa Edith Sales Castaneda
Betsy Joseline Sanchez-Briones
Maria Guadalupe Santana
Miriam Santana
Melissa Lorraine Santos
Michelle Servin
Diego Gdalia Share-Vargas
Raquel Sierra
Samantha Silva
Juan Carlos Solis, Jr
Maria Elena Solis
Alexandra Nicole Soto
Mariana Alejandra Tejeda
Elizabeth Tinoco-Bravo
Daniel Efrain Torres Velasquez
Estrella Urena Cuevas
Karina Uriostegui
Vanessa Valdez Cruz
Marilyn Jeanette Valdez
Florencia Valenzuela
Stephanie Vargas Maldonado
Criselle Vargas
Mayra Vasquez
Chelsea Paola Velasquez
Victoria Alise Venzor
Monique Daniella Verdugo
Paola Jimena Vergara Gonzalez
Vianey Del Rosario Vicencio Torres
Emily Diane Vose
Jozny Marie Wolf
Miqtlayohually Isa Xochipilli-Hill
Jesus Angel Yanez
Brian Zamora
Isaac A Zamora
Athziri Michelle Zaragoza
Alma Beatriz Zuniga Munoz

HONORS KEY

H College Honors
* Cum Laude
** Magna Cum Laude
*** Summa Cum Laude
C Chancellor’s Service Award
Leisy Abrego, Professor and Chair  
Karina Alma, Assistant Professor  
Eric Avila, Professor, Chicana/o Studies & History  
Matt Barreto, Professor, Political Science & Chicana/o Studies  
Maylei Blackwell, Associate Professor, Chicana/o Studies & Gender Studies  
Floridalma Boj Lopez, Assistant Professor  
Genevieve Carpio, Assistant Professor  
Jason De León, Professor, Anthropology & Chicana/o Studies  
Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Professor, Chicana/o Studies, English & Gender Studies  
Raúl Hinojosa-Ojeda, Associate Professor  
Gaye Theresa Johnson, Associate Professor, Chicana/o Studies  
Reynaldo F. Macías, Professor, Chicana/o Studies & Education  
Robert Chao Romero, Associate Professor, Chicana/o Studies & Asian American Studies  
Abel Valenzuela, Jr., Professor, Chicana/o Studies & Urban Planning, Director - Center for Urban Poverty  
Charlene Villaseñor-Black, Professor, Art History & Chicana/o Studies  
Christopher Zepeda-Millán, Associate Professor, Chicana/o Studies & Public Policy
UCLA Department of Chicana/o & Central American Studies

Joint Faculty

Rosina M. Becerra, Social Welfare
Laura E. Gómez, Law & Sociology
Gary Segura, Dean of Public Affairs
Daniel G. Solórzano, Jr., Education

Affiliated UCLA Faculty

Héctor Calderón, Spanish & Portuguese
David Hayes-Bautista, Medicine
Marissa Lopez, English
Chon A. Noriega, Film and Television
Vilma Ortiz, Sociology
Rafael Pérez-Torres, English
Fernando M. Torres-Gil, Social Welfare

Visiting Faculty

Richard Andalón
Helen Burgos-Ellis
Virginia Espino
Cristina Frías
Omar González
Audrey Harris
Alma López Gaspar De Alba

Michaela Mares-Tamayo
Celina Martinez
Krissia Martinez
Martha Ramírez-Oropeza
Avis Ridley-Thomas
Dana Lizett Herrera

Title: One person’s trash is a mother’s treasure: Reframing undocumented Latina mothers’ strategies to sustain their families through cash recycling during COVID-19

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Leisy Abrego
Honors Distinction

Students who graduate with **College Honors** receive one of the highest academic awards UCLA can bestow on an undergraduate. College Honors requires not only outstanding work in a major field and in general courses, but also a special set of rigorous courses and they have to maintain superlative grades.

**Latin Honors** is based solely on a student's cumulative University of California GPA at the end of Winter Quarter 2020. (gold fourragère)

- CUM LAUDE: 3.700 minimum overall GPA
- MAGNA CUM LAUDE: 3.816 minimum overall GPA
- SUMMA CUM LAUDE: 3.893 minimum overall GPA

The **Chancellor’s Service Award** is a selective award honoring graduating undergraduate students who have made significant contributions to UCLA and/or the surrounding Los Angeles community through a sustained record of outstanding leadership and service. (blue and gold fourragère)

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**Chicana/o & Central American Studies Department**

- Leisy Abrego: Department Chair
- Charlene Villaseñor Black: Director of Graduate Studies
- Isamara Ramirez: Department Manager
- Eleuteria (Ellie) Hernández: Undergraduate & Graduate Advisor
- Sandy Garcia: Administrative Coordinator
- Valeria Moedano: Administrative Assistant

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**The Department Thanks**

- Darnell Hunt - Dean, Division of Social Sciences
- Eleuteria (Ellie) Hernández
- Sandy Garcia
- Isamara Ramirez

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- Sandy Garcia
- Isamara Ramirez
¡Hasta Pronto!
¡Sí se pudo!

Your success is our success so please keep us updated

www.chavez.ucla.edu