

Curriculum Vitae

Gabriela Perez

gperez2031@ucla.edu

Areas of Interest

United States Catholic history; Mexican American Catholicism; Chicanxs and Catholicism; religion in US history; 20th and 21st century US history; decolonizing religion; religion and protest; Latinx religion; Liberation Theology; teologia indigena; autobiography, memoir, and memory; public history; institutional history; archival research; ethnography.

Education

2021 to Present	University of California, Los Angeles, PhD in Chicana/o and Central American Studies
2018	Harvard University, Divinity School, Master of Theological Studies
2016	University of California, Riverside, BA in Religious Studies

Memberships

Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States
American Academy of Religion
American Catholic Historical Association
American Historical Association
American Society of Church History
Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social
National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies
Organization of American Historians
Texas Catholic Historical Society
Texas State Historical Association
Western History Association

Professional Experience

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Los Angeles, 2022-2023
Introduction to Chicana/Chicano Studies: History and Culture, Fall 2022
Introduction to Chicana/Chicano Studies: Social Structure and Contemporary Conditions, Winter 2023

Theoretical Concepts in Chicana/Chicano Studies, Spring 2023
Health in Chicano/Latino Population, Summer 2023
Associate Instructor, University of California, Los Angeles, 2023-2024
Barrio Organization and Service Learning, Fall 2023
Censored! Art on Trial, Winter 2024
Barrio Organization and Service Learning, Spring 2024
Introduction to Chicana/Chicano Studies: History and Culture, Summer 2024

Publications

Pérez, Gabriela "Catholic Dimensions: John F. Kennedy Corridos as a Site of Mourning and Memory-Making among Mexican Americans in Texas." 34, (2023): 47-52.

Pérez, Gabriela "Meditating with Kali, Tlaloc and Guadalupe: Making Sense of the Sacred in Chicana Studies," *Journal of Hispanic/Latino Theology*: Vol. 24 : No. 2 , Article 9. (2022):190-216.

Interviews

Perez, Gabriela. "Patricio Flores and liberation theology: A Conversation with Gabriela Perez." Interview by Peter Cajka. Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. July 30, 2018.

Conference Presentations

"Bordering on Religion: The Catholic Church, The Satanic Temple, and Chicana Activism, 1960's to Present" to be Presented at the Western History Association, Kansas City, MO, (October 2024).

"Catholic Dimensions: John F. Kennedy Corridos as a Site of Mourning and Memory-Making among Mexican Americans in Texas," Presented at the Texas State Historical Association Meeting, El Paso, TX (March 4, 2023).

"Making Space: Mexican American Cultural Center as Knowledge Production," Presented at the Western History Association, San Antonio, TX (October 14, 2022).

"Meditating with Kali, Tlaloc, and Guadalupe: Making Sense of the Sacred in Chicana Studies," Presented at the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States Colloquium, San Diego, CA (June 6, 2022).

"500 Years without God: Reclaiming the Religious Dimension in the Study of Chicana Lives," Presented at the Texas State Historical Association Meeting, Austin, TX (February 26, 2022).

"Patrick Flores: The Intersectionality of a Mexican-American Bishop within the PADRES Movement," Presented at the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO. (November 20, 2018).

"Manifesting Kindness at the Feast Day of Saint Sebastian in El Monte, California," To be presented at the panel, "Latina, Latino and Latin American Religions," at annual American Academy of Religion—Western Region Conference, Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley, CA (March 2, 2018).

"Reproducing Religious Icons: Our Lady of Guadalupe in Southern California." Presented at the panel, "The Public Practice of Immigrant and Minority Religions in Southern California," at the 2016 Mellon Advancing Intercultural Studies Conference, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA (May 7, 2016).

"Reproducing Religious Icons: Our Lady of Guadalupe in Southern California." Presented at the 10th Annual Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Symposium, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA (April 20, 2016).

Invited Talks

"The Catholic Church, The Satanic Temple, and Chicana Activism, 1960's to present," Presented to 90 undergrads in Chicana/o and Central American Studies 100 XP Lecture, Barrio Organization and Service Learning, at the University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (November 20, 2023).

"Two Years After 'Meditating with Kali, Tlaloc, and Guadalupe: Making Sense of the Sacred in Chicana Studies'," Presented to a Sociology Class on Religion, at California State University, Fullerton, via Zoom (October 26, 2023).

"What Dia de Los Muertos Means to Me: Perspectives from a Catholic Chicana," Presented at the Interfaith Living Learning Community, at the University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (November 3, 2022).

"Remarks on 'Illegal Marginalizations: La Santisima Muerte'," Presented to an undergraduate class on Politics of Crisis: Migration, Identity, and Religion, at the University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (September 6, 2022).

Awards and Grants

Awarded the Carlos E. Castañeda Award for outstanding service to the Texas Catholic Historical Society by revamping their biannual newsletter, the *Texas Catholic Historian*, March 7, 2024.

Awarded \$500 Portman Research Award, Portman Endowment in Catholic Theology, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Diego, June 7, 2022.

Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship, UCLA, 2021-2022.

Awarded \$600 Cushwa Center Research Travel Grant. Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism. University of Notre Dame, 2018.

Dean's Fellowship, Harvard University, 2016-2018.

Awarded Academic Excellence Award in Religious Studies by Religious Studies Department. University of California, Riverside, 2016.

Awarded Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship. The Center for Ideas and Society. University of California, Riverside, 2015.

University Leadership

President, Social Sciences Council, University of California, Los Angeles, June 2023 to present.

Graduate Student Representative for Chicana/o and Central American Studies department, University of California, Los Angeles, September 2022 to present.

Role includes: attending faculty meetings; planning and assisting Admitted Students Day; serving as a liaison between graduate students and faculty.

Planned and hosted the "CCAS Writing Salons" during Winter 2023; served as a liaison between CCAS grad students and faculty during Fall 2022's UC-system wide strike; currently a part of the senior faculty search committee.

Co-Founder of Interfaith Friends at UCLA, University of California, March 2022 to present.

Planned, organized, and hosted academic debate entitled "Does the Quran Endorse Religious Pluralism?" with Dr. Shadee ElMasry and Dr. Javad T. Hashmi, (February 15, 2023).

Academic Organization Leadership

Newsletter Editor, *Texas Catholic Historian*, for Texas Catholic Historical Society, March 2023 to present.

Additional Skills

Assisting with the graduate school application process. Within the last year successfully helped two students get into two graduate programs, one in nursing and one in the social sciences.

Assisting with undergrad research proposals. Helped one student successfully get into the Undergraduate Research Fellows Program at UCLA with their proposal on religious identity among LGBTQ+ Latinxs.

Mentoring undergraduate students who are interested in graduate school and/or research.

Languages

Spanish, English, elementary Nahuatl, elementary German