

Gabriela Perez
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Areas of Interest

United States Catholic history; Mexican American Catholicism; Chicanxs and Catholicism; religion in US history; The Satanic Temple; BIPOC Satanists; 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	UCLA, 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

Professional Experience

Associate Instructor, University of California, Los Angeles, 2023-2024

Introduction to Chicana/Chicano Studies: History and Culture, Summer Session C 2024
Introduction to Chicana/Chicano Studies: History and Culture, Summer Session A 2024
Barrio Organization and Service Learning, Spring 2024
Censored! Art on Trial, Winter 2024
Barrio Organization and Service Learning, Fall 2023

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Los Angeles, 2022-2023

Health in Chicano/Latino Population, Summer 2023
Theoretical Concepts in Chicana/Chicano Studies, Spring 2023
Introduction to Chicana/Chicano Studies: Social Structure and Contemporary Conditions, Winter 2023
Introduction to Chicana/Chicano Studies: History and Culture, Fall 2022

Publications

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

Pérez, Gabriela "Meditating with Kali, Tlaloc and Guadalupe: Making Sense of the Sacred in Chicanx 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 Chicanx Activism, 1960s – Present," Presented at the Western History Association, Kansas City, MO (October 25, 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 Chicanx 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 Chicanx 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

"Lazos de fe", Commentator for Deborah Balbuena's paper, for the Historians of Catholic Mexico Network (HISTCATMEX), CDMX (February 25, 2025).

"The Catholic Church, The Satanic Temple, and Chicanx Activism, 1960's to Present," Presented to 100 undergrads in Intro to Chicana/o and Central American Studies 10A Lecture at the University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA (August 16, 2024).

"The Catholic Church, The Satanic Temple, and Chicanx 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 Chicanx 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

Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship, UCLA, 2024-2025.

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.

Academic Organization Leadership

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

University Leadership

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

Oversee and allocate funds for all 22 departments within the Social Sciences at UCLA.

Graduate Student Representative for Chicana/o and Central American Studies department, University of California, Los Angeles, September 2022 to September 2024.

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).

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
TexasState Historical Association
Western History Association

Languages

Spanish, English, elementary Nahuatl, elementary German

Additional Skills

Assist 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.

Assist 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.

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