A Fresh Start to a New Academic Year

We could not be more thrilled to be welcoming students back to campus. Even though we proceed with caution as the pandemic continues, this academic year feels like a fresh start. The RCA will offer its public programming via webinar format and we will support in-person research opportunities for students. We have a busy year ahead of us, including planning for our 30th anniversary celebration in 2022 (details in our winter newsletter)!

The RCA Steering Committee has identified the theme of “Mobility and Belonging” as our primary focus for the next two academic years. We look forward to creating the spaces for interdisciplinary dialogues that explore this theme in generative ways. The RCA has confirmed some exciting programming already for the first year. We begin with our kick-off webinar event “Precarity and Belonging” on November 9 at 12 noon (details below).

Please be sure to follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

Saludos,
Sylvanna M. Falcón
Research Center for the Americas
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

FALL EVENT
**Precarity and Belonging: Book Launch**

**Tuesday, November 9**
**12:00–1:30 p.m. PDT**
**Virtual Event – REGISTER today!**

Join UC Santa Cruz professors Catherine S. Ramírez, Sylvanna M. Falcón, Steve C. McKay, Juan Poblete, and Felicity Amaya Schaeffer as they celebrate the release of their co-edited volume titled *Precarity and Belonging: Labor, Migration, and Noncitizenship*. This book brings precarity and mobility together to explore the points of contact and friction and thus, the spaces for a possible politics of commonality, between citizens and noncitizens. **Dr. Camila Hawthorne**, assistant professor of sociology at UC Santa Cruz, will be the event’s moderator. Closed captioning and an ASL interpreter will be provided. This event...
Congratulations to award-winning documentary filmmaker Jennifer Maytorena Taylor, RCA Steering Committee member and associate professor in Film and Digital Media, for her new film – “For the Love of Rutland” – about a small New England town divided by class, race, addiction, and the toxic politics of today, and the woman who emerges as an unexpected and resilient leader. The national broadcast premiere will be in early 2022.

is free and open to the public and co-sponsored by the Baskin Endowed Chair in Feminist Studies, The Humanities Institute, the Institute for Social Transformation, and Oakes College.

FACULTY & RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS
"NUANCED AND PASSIONATE, THIS FASCINATING LOOK AT A TOWN DIVIDED REVEALS AN UNLIKELY HERO"
- Myrocia Watamaniuk, Hot Docs

FOR THE LOVE OF RUTLAND

"POWERFUL...CAPTURES PERFECTLY THE TENSIONS AND IDEOLOGICAL RIFTS OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICA"
- Point of View Magazine

ONE OF THE "10 MOST EXCITING FILMS" AT HOT DOCS 2020
- Indiewire

"RICHLY DETAILED... COMPLICATED AND ENGROSSING"
- The Gate
Congratulations to RCA Steering Committee member Michael M. Chemers, professor and chair of the Department of Performance, Play & Design for his new edited book Theatre of the Sphere: The Vibrant Being, which is authored by Luis Valdez. Known as the "Father of Chicano Theatre," Valdez is a
playwright, educator, and activist, whose contributions to American theatre are legendary.

Human Rights Investigations Lab
Recent research reports by the Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas include “Disinformation, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Latin America,” which includes a timeline of significant firsts for Latin America (first social media post mentioning COVID-19, the first case, death, and the introduction of prevention protocols), a co-published digital report with the American Indian Resource Center on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Northern California, and a digital report on Colombian Indigenous Land Defenders, in partnership with Cultural Survival.

STUDENT AWARDS

In partnership with the Latin American and Latino Studies Department of UC Santa Cruz, we are very proud to introduce the final cohort of Tinker Foundation award recipients.

Nathan Edenhofer
Mining, Power, and Contention Across Central America: Movements, Elites, and the State

Politics Ph.D. program, Division of Social Sciences

Ana Flecha
Secular spirits: a comparative study of the Santo Daime bailado and the popular Festa Junina in the Northeast of Brazil

Latin American and Latino Studies Ph.D. program, Division of Social Sciences

Pedro Juarez
Local adaptation to pollinators and pollinator isolation in Neotropical Costus

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Ph.D. program, Division of Physical & Biological Sciences

Tamara Ortega Uribe
Localizing postneoliberal politics and extractivist patterns of global environmental problems in Latin America

Politics Ph.D. program, Division of Social Sciences

Andrea Paz-Lacavex
Green gravel for kelp restoration in Baja California

Coastal Science and Policy Masters Program, Division of Physical & Biological Sciences

Amy Reid
Coastal Connections: Nation Building and Third Cinema through Peruvian and American Filmmaking

Film and Digital Media Ph.D. program, Division of Arts

Alejandra Watanabe Farro
Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice: The Politics of Policy-making in Peru and Colombia

Latin American and Latino Studies Ph.D. Program, Division of Social Sciences
Congratulations to the 2021 Lionel Cantú Memorial Award recipients:

Gloriana Lopez Leon, graduate student in Psychology
Karina Ruiz, Ph.D. candidate in Latin American and Latino Studies

ALUMNI KUDOS

Director Peter Bratt, an RCA Distinguished Alumni Affiliate, has directed and produced Corazón de América, which made its network premiere on ABC on September 17, 2021. You can view it now on Hulu. ¡Felicidades Peter!

Alumni of the RCA’s Human Rights Investigations Lab are making us so proud as they apply their research skills in the pursuit of the truth for Media Matters for America. Congratulations to Monica Estrada, Leo Fernandez, Josue Perez, and Stephanie Medina for tackling dis/misinformation. Stephanie has now accepted a position as a Legal Fellow for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights/CHIRLA where she will be applying her lab skills in the legal arena.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

All applications are due November 1, 2021 by 5 p.m. PST
**RCA Faculty Research Awards**
This award supports research in areas of specialization for the RCA in Chicanx, Latinx, and/or Latin American, migration, and human rights studies by UC Santa Cruz faculty. [Apply here](#).

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**RCA Research Cluster Awards**
Research Clusters are collaborative research groups with UC Santa Cruz faculty and/or graduate students. Clusters independently organize activities, such as reading groups, workshops, symposia, conferences, and lectures. [Apply here](#).

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**RCA Graduate Student Grants**
These grants help fund research expenses for UC Santa Cruz graduate students in good academic standing in Chicanx, Latinx, and/or Latin American, migration, and human rights studies, such as research or conference travel, software packages, transcription, and other research supplies. [Apply here](#).

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**A Look Back: 2020–21 Webinar Programming**
If you missed our webinar programming from last academic year, now is your chance to watch them.

**Dr. Valeria Ribeiro Corossacz & Activist/Organizer Cleide Pinto** ~ November 6, 2020
*Domestic Workers’ Resistance in Brazil*

**Dr. Sylvanna Falcón** ~ November 9, 2020
*The Evolving Practice of Human Rights Accountability: The New Terrain for Justice*

**Dr. Pascha Bueno-Hansen** ~ November 19, 2020
*Dissident Genders and Sexualities in the Andes - Transitional Justice Otherwise*

**Ph.D. candidate Lívia Perez & Activist/Journalist Camila Marins** ~ December 4, 2020
*LGBTQ Resistance in Brazil: From the Military Dictatorship to the Current Reactionary Wave*

**Dr. Catherine Ramírez & Dr. Kate Jones** ~ May 13, 2021
*Sites of Memory, Spaces of Dispute: Missions and Monuments in the United States*

Read more about [Prof. Ramírez’s work at Boom California](#).
SUPPORT OUR WORK

The Research Center for the Americas at UC Santa Cruz has been supporting a broad program of research on Latin American and Chicanx/Latinx Studies since 1992. We rely on private donations for our work.

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