Spring is Here

In these early days of a new season, we take to heart the recent words of Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson about perseverance. Fortunately, the possibility of hope also shines through as we enter Spring.

The RCA is finishing the academic year with its final set of public events in the “Mobility and Belonging” thematic series. Information about those Spring quarter events (both virtual and in-person), Call for Applications, and celebrating the achievements of students and faculty are in this newsletter.

Please be sure to follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. We’ll announce ticket sales for the RCA’s 30th anniversary celebration on social media this Spring. Thank you for supporting the RCA and we continue to wish you and your loved ones good health.

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

SPRING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 29, 2022
12:00 noon–1:30 p.m. PST
Virtual Event – REGISTER today!

Come join us as we bring together panelists from academia, industry, and non-profits to discuss the external threats facing digital investigators from underrepresented communities and ways to counter those challenges. Closed captioning and an ASL interpreter will be provided. More information can be found on our website.

"A Ballad of Love & Glory by Reyna Grande"
Thursday, April 7, 2022, 7 p.m. PST
In-person Event (Cowell Ranch Hay Barn)

UCSC students: reserve your complimentary ticket and copy of the book.
General public: purchase your tickets today

Come join Reyna Grande as she discusses her new novel with Professor Sylvanna Falcón and Professor Micah Perks. This event is sponsored by Bookshop Santa Cruz and cosponsored by The Humanities Institute and the Research Center for the Americas. More information can be found on our website.

Dr. Jesica Fernández: "Growing Up Latinx: Coming of Age in a Time of Contested Citizenship"

Monday, April 18, 2022
3:30 p.m.–4:45 p.m. PST  
In-person Event (Room 121 Social Sciences 2)  
No advance registration required

**DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY COLLOQUIUM SERIES**

**MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022**  
3:30pm–4:45pm PST  
Room 121 Social Sciences 2

Professor Jesica Siham Fernández explores the lives of Latinx youth as they grapple with their social and political identities from an early age, and pursue a sense of belonging within their school and communities as they face an increasingly hostile United States political climate.

The RCA is co-sponsoring with the Psychology department a talk by Dr. Jesica Fernández, Assistant Professor in Ethnic Studies department at Santa Clara University, about her new book *Growing Up Latinx: Coming of Age in a Time of Contested Citizenship*. This event is also co-sponsored by the Latin American and Latino Studies department.

"**We Belong-Pertenecemos: Resource Fair and Film Screening**"

**Friday, May 13, 2022, 5–9 p.m. PST**  
In-person Event (Watsonville City Plaza) – FREE to the public
The RCA is proud to co-sponsor "We Belong-Pertenecemos," a community event in the Watsonville City Plaza (358 Main St, Watsonville, CA 95076) that includes a free film screening of Fruits of Labor about Watsonville and immigrant life in the region and sharing UCSC research alongside the work of community partners. Join us for this important community event.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Lionel Cantú Memorial Award**
Eligibility: UC Santa Cruz graduate students in good academic standing in the Social Sciences, Humanities, or Arts.

**Application Deadline:** 5 p.m. PST, Friday, April 29, 2022

The Lionel Cantú Memorial Award celebrates the life and work of Lionel Cantú (1965-2002), former Assistant Professor of Sociology at UC Santa Cruz. Professor Cantú’s scholarship bridged and advanced Latino sociology, immigration studies, transnational/cross-border studies, gender and sexuality studies, and the study of gay men and masculinity. UC Santa Cruz graduate
students working in any of these areas are eligible to apply, although preference will go to those working in and linking more than one area.

Human Rights Student Researchers for 2022-2023

Eligibility: UC Santa Cruz undergraduate and graduate students in good academic standing

Application Deadline: 5 p.m. PST, Friday, May 6, 2022

The RCA is recruiting for its next cohort of students to join the Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas, which tracks and monitors ongoing humanitarian, environmental and socio-political crises by using open source investigative methods in partnership with non-governmental organizations, news outlets, and other advocacy partners. If you are interested in becoming part of a new generation of human rights investigators, then apply today. This opportunity is open to undergraduate and graduate students in any division. Please direct any questions about this research opportunity to hrlab@ucsc.edu.

AWARD WINNERS

The RCA and the Department of Latin American and Latino Studies are proud to sponsor four graduate students writing in the fields of Chicano/a/x and Latin American Studies. Congratulations to the recipients:
**Ismael Illescas**, Latin American & Latino Studies department, *"Between Art and Crime: Graffiti and Street Art in Neoliberal Los Angeles"

**Priscilla Martinez**, History department, *"By Land and By Sea: Indigeneity, Mestizaje, and Nationalism at the Mexican Pacific Borderlands from 1821 to 1934"

**Marina Segatti**, Feminist Studies department, *"Queer and Trans Digital Activism in Brazil"

**Uriel Serrano**, Sociology department, *"Youth in The City of Inmates: Gender, Resistance, and Carceral Seepage"

**FACULTY & RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**Research on Immigrant Scams in the United States**

RCA Steering Committee member **Juan Manuel Pedroza** (Assistant Professor of Sociology) published the first national study on immigrant scams in the United States titled “Making noncitizens' rights real: Evidence from immigration scam complaints” in *Law & Policy*. Dr. Pedroza’s research shows noncitizens seeking immigration legal services are often caught in webs of deception with scams being under-reported to authorities if immigrants are being socially excluded.
Congratulations to RCA Steering Committee member Kirsten Silva Gruesz, Professor of Literature, for her forthcoming new book *Cotton Mather’s Spanish Lessons: A Story of Language, Race, and Belonging in the Early Americas* (Harvard University Press, July 2022).
SAVE THE DATE: October 20, 2022
Check our social media for when tickets go on sale. A 30th anniversary celebration of the RCA will be an event not to be missed! It will be held at the Cowell Hay Barn on October 20, 2022 and feature keynote speaker Maria Hinojosa. Read more about Maria Hinojosa’s incredible career on our website. Join us for great conversation, good food, dancing, and more!

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