Happy New Year from the RCA

As we put 2020 behind us, the start of 2021 is not what we had hoped. Disinformation has introduced new threats against democracy and the pandemic continues. Even though we are starting this new quarter on a heavy note, we still want to share our plans for this quarter. We have opened the call for applications for the Tinker Foundation Field Research grants and professional dissertation writing support for graduate students. We are also making available four webinars by the Professor Is In, open to all graduate students.

Building on the theme of Memory Studies in the Americas, the RCA is cosponsoring a webinar lecture by Yarimar Bonilla, professor of Africana, Puerto Rican, and Latino studies at Hunter College. Hosted by the Center for Cultural Studies, Professor Bonilla’s lunchtime lecture on January 13, 2021, is titled “An Unthinkable State: Puerto Rico, USA, and the aporias of US empire.”

The RCA is also proud to announce we have recently been awarded two significant grants from the Public Interest Technology University Network and the UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives. We are thrilled to have secured this substantial external funding for the Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas.

Thank you for your continued support of the RCA.

Saludos,
Sylvanna M. Falcón
Research Center for the Americas
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
Professor Yarimar Bonilla ~ “An Unthinkable State: Puerto Rico, USA, and the aporias of US Empire”

Wednesday, January 13th, 12:15pm–1:30pm (Virtual Event)

The RCA is pleased to cosponsor this event hosted by the Center for Cultural Studies colloquium. This presentation by Yarimar Bonilla, professor of Africana, Puerto Rican studies and Latino studies at Hunter College, will offer an ethnographic analysis of how Puerto Rican statehood is imagined and defended by its supporters and show how this movement uniquely articulates the very contradictions and power asymmetries that structure Puerto Rico’s relationship to the US. This event is free and open to the public. Please register in advance to receive the link.

Graduate Student Webinars
We are pleased to provide these four webinars complimentary to our graduate students by The Professor Is In. These webinars include:

* Talking Mental Health in the Academy in a Pandemic
* What Grad Students Need To Hear
* For Grad Students Only: Turning Your Ph.D. Into a Job
* Women and the Academic Career: What Works, What Doesn’t

Please register by February 1, 2021 to be provided access to these webinar links.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: UC Santa Cruz Graduate Students
Tinker Foundation Field Research Grants
This grant competition is made possible by the Tinker Foundation Field Research Grants with additional support from the UC Santa Cruz Board Opportunity Fund, Graduate Division, and the Office of Research. These awards are open to pre-dissertation students with good academic standing in all graduate degree programs. Please check the Tinker Foundation information page on the RCA website. The deadline is March 2, 2021.

Dissertation Writing Support
With support from the Latin American and Latino Studies Department, we are sponsoring at least five Ph.D. candidates writing dissertations in the fields of Chicanx/Latinx studies and/or Latin American studies to have one chapter professionally copyedited. See our webpage for more information and to apply. The deadline is February 15, 2021.

RCA IN THE NEWS

Check out this recent blog post from the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History about our collaboration and the 2020 winning photographs from our annual student photo scholarship contest.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS & KUDOS
New Book from Former Director

Congratulations to former RCA Director Catherine Ramírez on the publication of her book *Assimilation An Alternative History* (2020, University of California Press), which “explores the history of the concept of assimilation in the United States” and “probes the gap between assimilation and citizenship.”
Peruvian Feminist Oral History Project
In collaboration with feminist partners in Perú, five undergraduate students and an LALS graduate student worked with Professors Shelly Grabe and Sylvanna Falcón in creating an oral history archive about women leaders of Perú. Their completed work will be added to the Global Feminisms Project at the University of Michigan, an open source archive that serves as a repository for oral histories from women scholars and activists throughout the world. The Institute for Social Transformation’s Building Belonging Program provided funding for the undergraduates and the Gary D. Licker Memorial Chair sponsored the graduate student researcher.

AWARD WINNERS

The RCA is proud to support research by UC Santa Cruz faculty and graduate students as well as sponsor Research Clusters. Congrats to our award winners.

Individual Faculty Research Awards

Professor Catherine S. Ramírez
Latin American and Latino Studies Department/Merrill College
"Precarity and Belonging: Labor, Migration, and Noncitizenship."

Professor Felicity Amaya Schaeffer
Feminist Studies Department

Professor Amanda Smith
Literature Department
"The Vortex and the Border Line: José Eustasio Rivera and the Venezuela-Colombia Border Commission."

Research Clusters

"Researching and Resisting Brazil's Reactionary Wave"
Co-coordinators: Professor Patricia Pinho, Department of Latin American and Latino Studies, and Marina Segatti, graduate student, Department of Feminist Studies.

"Critical Cultural Political Economy of Extractivism"
Co-coordinators: Professor Fernando Leiva and Alejandra Watanabe Farro, graduate student, Department of Latin American and Latino Studies.
"Cuir/Cuier/Queer Studies in the Americas"
Co-coordinators: Graduate students Mario Gómez, Department of Latin American and Latino Studies, and Emily Padilla, Department of Feminist Studies.

Graduate Student Grants
Michelle Parra
Sociology Department
"Re-examining Heteronormativity in the U.S: How (Upwardly) Mobile Latinas Negotiate their Sexual Subjectivities."

Valeria Alonso Blanco
Psychology Department
"Exploring Cultural and Family Strengths among Undocumented Community College Students to Create an Inclusive Campus Climate."

A LOOK BACK
If you missed any of our fall events, luckily they have been recorded and you can view them online.

• Professor Sylvanna Falcón ~ The Evolving Practice of Human Rights Accountability: The New Terrain for Justice

• Professor Pascha Bueno-Hansen ~ Dissident Genders and Sexualities in the Andes: Transitional Justice Otherwise.

• Brazilian Reactionary Wave Webinar Series: “Domestic Workers’ Resistance and LGBTQ Resistance in Brazil: From the Military Dictatorship to the Current Reactionary Wave”