LATINO AMERICANS: 500 YEARS OF HISTORY
Recommended Indiana Scholars

These scholars have agreed to be part of our list of recommended scholars to support the new program Latino Americans: 500 Years of History, offered by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. Contact scholars individually to discover ways to work together on this unique grant opportunity.

Community organizations can apply for funds of $3,000-$10,000 to create public programs around the PBS documentary series LATINO AMERICANS. To learn more about Latino Americans and how to apply visit https://apply.ala.org/latinoamericans.

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Michael Amezcua, University of Notre Dame
Department of History and Institute for Latino Studies
mike.amezcua@nd.edu

Mike specializes in twentieth-century United States history, urban history and Latina/o history with a particular interest in the intersections of urban space, racial and migrant politics and cultural practices. He is currently completing his first book about the impact of Mexican migration to Chicago in the twentieth century.

Ileana Cortés Santiago, Purdue University
Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Butler Center for Leadership Excellence icortess@purdue.edu

Ileana is a doctoral student in Literacy and Language Education (English Education) in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Purdue University. She is currently an AACTE Holmes Diversity Scholar whose research interests include Latino/a family engagement, English language learning and the use of music as tool for literacy development.

Luis Ricardo Fraga, University of Notre Dame
Arthur Foundation Endowed Professor of Transformative Latino Leadership, Department of Political Science, Institute for Educational Initiatives and Institute for Latino Studies luis.fraga@nd.edu

Luis Ricardo Fraga is the Arthur Foundation Endowed Professor of Transformative Latino Leadership and Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. His primary interests are in American politics where he specializes in the politics of race and ethnicity, Latino politics, immigration policy, education politics, voting rights policy, and urban politics. In 2011 President Barack Obama appointed him to the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. The Commission develops action plans and priorities for President Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to improve the educational attainment of Hispanics. Fraga is also one of six principal investigators on the Latino National Survey (LNS), the first-ever state-stratified survey of Latinos in the U.S. The LNS asks questions regarding political attitudes, beliefs, behavior, and policy preferences.

If you or someone you know would like to be a part of our list of recommended scholars, please Contact Leah Nahmias, Director of Programs (lnahmias@indianahumanities.org / 317-616-9804).
Jennifer Jones, University of Notre Dame  
Department of Sociology and Institute for Latino Studies  
jones23@nd.edu

Jennifer, a sociologist, studies how increasing migration, the U.S.’s growing multiracial population and shifting social relations between and within racial groups, are changing our contemporary landscape. She recently convened a conference about Afro-Latinos in the Americas.

Timothy Matovina, University of Notre Dame  
Department of Theology and Institute for Latino Studies  
timothy.matovina.1@nd.edu

Timothy works in the area of Theology and Culture, with specialization in U.S. Catholic and U.S. Latino theology and religion. At Notre Dame he has won two teaching awards, including the Julian Samora Award that members of Notre Dame’s La Alianza student organization confer on a faculty member whose research, teaching, and service advance knowledge and empowerment of Latino/a students and communities. In addition to his scholarly work, Timothy offers presentations and workshops on U.S. Catholicism and Latino ministry and theology throughout the United States.

Sarah Ohmer, University of Indianapolis  
Modern Language Department (Spanish)  
ohmers@uindy.edu

Sarah, a native of France who immigrated to the US at age 11, teaches Spanish language, culture and literature. Her areas of specialization include gender and race in non-English literature, performance studies, and African Diaspora studies. Sarah has directed one play and translated and acted in several other plays at Et Voilá Theater in Houston, Texas.

John Nieto-Phillips, Indiana University  
Department of History and Latino Studies  
jnietoph@indiana.edu

John is foremost a U.S. historian with a deep interest in twentieth-century immigration from Latin America, Latina/o education in the United States, and the complexities of “race.” In the classroom and in his research, he explores the various means by which Latinas and Latinos have sought “full citizenship” and equality in the schools, in politics, and in public spaces. One of his most rewarding experiences teaching at Indiana University has been developing a Service Learning course option that engages students in volunteer (family literacy) work among Indiana’s immigrant communities.

Jason Ruiz, University of Notre Dame  
Department of American Studies and Institute for Latino Studies  
jason.ruiz@nd.edu

Jason is Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of Notre Dame, where is affiliated faculty with the Program in Gender Studies and the Institute for Latino Studies. Jason’s research focuses on American perceptions of Mexico and Latin America with emphases on race, cultural and economic imperialism, tourism, gender, and sexuality.

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