

CENTER FOR

LATIN AMERICAN CARIBBEAN STUDIES

2025

2026



LACS YEAR IN REVIEW 2025–2026

- 3
DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE
- 6
STUDENT AWARDS
- 8
ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS
- 12
FEATURED EVENTS
- 13
EXHIBITION
- 14
LACS 2026 VIRTUAL RESIDENCY
PROGRAM
- 15
SUPPORTING LACS &
THE BRAZILIAN INITIATIVE



ABOUT THE CENTER

The University of Michigan Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) is committed to promoting a broad and deep understanding of the region—its cultures, histories, and peoples. An internationally renowned center, LACS serves as the nexus on campus for faculty and students from a range of disciplines who share a common interest in Latin America and the Caribbean. The center's breadth of programming and outreach initiatives foster scholarly engagement and impactful exchange between Michigan, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

LACS offers an undergraduate major and minor and a graduate certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The center also facilitates dialogue between U-M and the broader community by organizing and supporting conferences, lectures, and performances that are open to the public. A critical space for faculty, students, and community members to learn and share knowledge about the region, LACS partners with units across campus to internationalize education and enhance cross-cultural understanding.

LACS is home to U-M's Brazil Initiative, a university-wide initiative to promote research, teaching, and activities about Brazil and to enhance collaborations with Brazilian institutions and colleagues. It is also home to the Indigenous Studies Network, an interdisciplinary group of faculty and students who study Indigenous languages, cultures, worldviews, and social movements from that part of Abya Yala or Ixachitlan that is often referred to as Latin American and the Caribbean. It is a founding member of the Indigenous, Latin, American, and Caribbean Studies Consortium (ILACS), which fosters collaborative research and shared programming among peer programs and centers across the Great Lakes region.

DIRECTOR+STAFF

GAVIN ARNALL

Director, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies; and Associate Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature

BASMA EMAM

Global Projects Group
Administrative Coordinator

NATAŠA GRUDEN-ALAJBEGOVIĆ

Global Projects Group
Business Manager

RAQUEL BUCKLEY

II Communications and Graphic
Design Manager

2025–26 LACS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GAVIN ARNALL

LACS Director; and Associate Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature

SARA AWARTANI

Assistant Professor, American Culture

SUEANN CAULFIELD

Professor, History and Residential College

FRIEDA EKOTTO

Lorna Goodison Collegiate Professor, Afroamerican and African Studies, Comparative Literature, and Francophone Studies

GIULIA RICCÒ

Associate Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Supporters, Colleagues, and Community,



GAVIN ARNALL

his academic year we overcame some big challenges. In September 2025, the Department of Education discontinued funding for all institutions with National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies Grants. Much of our budget relied on these sources of support, so we had to find creative ways to continue our mission at LACS while redoubling our fundraising efforts. This letter shares some of the major highlights and achievements of the past year; it is a statement that, with or without federal funding, we will continue the good work. It is also a letter of thanks and recognition for all the people and organizations that made this year so memorable and productive despite the distressing news from Washington. If you are inspired by the work that we are doing or have benefited from it in the past, please consider donating to the LACS Strategic Fund so that we can continue to serve as the major hub on campus for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

I begin, as always, with our students – the core of our intellectual community. Through the Tinker Field Research Grants and the Boyce Family Caribbean Studies Grants, 14 undergraduate and graduate students were awarded funds to pursue research and internship opportunities across Latin America and the Caribbean. Our Gutierrez Award recipient, Garima Panwar, will spend the 2026–2027 academic year working toward the completion of her dissertation, which provides an innovative and comparative analysis of contemporary feminist theory and practice with a focus on Argentina and India. We are thrilled to support these students in their learning and professional development.

The Indigenous Studies Network—an interdisciplinary group of 15 faculty affiliated with LACS—concluded its second year of activities. We designed and will soon launch an Indigenous Studies track for our Latin American Studies major and minor, and we successfully advocated for the continuation of Nahuatl and Quechua instruction at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. We also hosted Maya K'iché intellectual and activist Gladys Tzul Tzul—an expert and participant in communal politics and self-governance in Guatemala—for our ongoing Indigenous Studies lecture series. Looking ahead, we are in the planning stages of developing exciting new initiatives with the Program in Native American Studies, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, and other partners and units across the university with the aim of making Michigan the premier institution for Indigenous Studies in the country.

This academic year we founded and launched the Indigenous, Latin American, and Caribbean Studies Consortium, a network of seven peer programs and centers across the Great Lakes region, with the aim to promote collaborative research, develop shared programming, and expand learning opportunities for our intellectual communities. One notable success of this network is that we have improved accessibility to the study of less commonly taught languages by coordinating our course offerings.



This academic year we founded and launched the Indigenous, Latin American, and Caribbean Studies Consortium—a network of seven peer programs and centers across the Great Lakes region, with the aim to promote collaborative research, develop shared programming, and expand learning opportunities for our intellectual communities.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Center for Latin American Studies

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Center for Latin American Studies

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

What this means concretely is that students at other universities are notified about our Nahuatl and Quechua programs and are virtually enrolling in our courses, while Michigan students are discovering that, through our partner institutions, they can study a range of languages not yet offered here, like Haitian Kreyol, Q'anjob'al, and Yucatec Maya. This network has already garnered national attention and was featured at a major conference on the future of international and area studies held at Pittsburgh University.

This academic year also marked the completion of Ryan Morrison's Afro-Brazilian Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, which was supported by the Brazil Initiative. A gifted teacher and a rising star in his field of research, Ryan contributed in so many ways to our intellectual community since he joined us two years ago. Some highlights include organizing a capoeira demonstration, leading virtual visits and in-person excursions to Brazilian cultural institutions, delivering invited talks on campus, and curating a fantastic exhibit in February 2026, which traced the repatriation journey of Afro-Brazilian art from a Detroit-based nonprofit to Salvador, Bahia. He also designed

and taught four popular courses and mentored and recruited students to the study of Portuguese and Afro-Brazilian culture, all while advancing on his first book project and contributing to several collaborative research initiatives. If this were not enough, his translation from the Portuguese of an important new novel was shortlisted for the English PEN: Brazil Award. It has been such a pleasure and privilege to work with Ryan, and we will follow his future endeavors with great interest.

A Global Engagement Grant from the Office of the Provost allowed us to partner with the Donia Center for Human Rights and the Center for Emerging Democracies to organize a series of events grouped under the timely theme, "Lessons of Authoritarianism and Democratic Resilience." The series began with a lecture and workshop by Argentine feminist philosopher and activist Lucía Cavallero and concluded with a virtual teach-in on Venezuela and US imperialism. In between, we sponsored a packed screening of the Brazilian film, "I'm Still Here," and held an event on comparative human rights education with Mayki Gorosito, former director of the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory in Argentina, and José Carlos Vega,



A film screening and discussion of "I'm Still Here" was one of five events held as part of a jointly sponsored series, **Lessons of Authoritarianism & Democratic Resilience in Latin America**.

manager of archives at the Museum of Memory and Human Rights in Chile. One fruitful development of this series is that LACS and Donia have set up a new student internship program with the Museum of Memory and Human Rights and sent our first cohort of students this past summer.

Another exciting development is the creation of a Global Migration Hub at the International Institute. In collaboration with the Ford School of Public Policy and the School of Nursing, we at LACS received an Education Abroad Resource Grant to develop a new study abroad program for this hub. It will focus on short-term clinical research and internship opportunities in the San Diego/Tijuana border region. Building upon partnerships in San Diego and Tijuana that were established through the Global Migration Education Initiative, this new project pivots its focus toward international experiences and professional development for students interested in public health; public policy; and the cultures, histories, and politics of migration and migrant communities.

This was also a year of bittersweet departures, as core staff members left to pursue exciting

A Global Engagement Grant from the Office of the Provost allowed LACS to partner with the Donia Center for Human Rights and the Center for Emerging Democracies to organize a series of events grouped under the timely theme, Lessons of Authoritarianism and Democratic Resilience.

new opportunities. Christopher Jensen, our former Outreach Coordinator, is now the Global Engagement Manager in the Office of Global Affairs at Michigan's School of Nursing. Nestor Barrera, our former Assistant Director, accepted a position to work with the federal government in Mexico. I know that they will make impactful and meaningful contributions in these new positions just as they did during their time at LACS. After their departures, Rachel Brichta, Natasa Gruden-Alajbegovic, Basma Emam, and other staff members at the International Institute stepped up to support continuity of programming and operations at our center. Much of what I have described in this letter was made possible due to their efforts. As we look forward to the 2026–2027 academic year, I am happy to announce that LACS has a new Academic Program Specialist, Julio Beltrán, who will be picking up where Chris and Nestor left off. Julio joins us from Ohio State University's Center for Latin America Studies, where he focused on outreach projects that drew upon his passion for Afro-Brazilian capoeira, his experience as an electoral observer in Haiti and Peru, and his background as a political analyst for Ecuador's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Please come by our office space and welcome Julio to the team!

With a new academic year on the horizon, I invite you to join the intellectual community at LACS and contribute to our mission of promoting a broader and deeper understanding of Latin America and the Caribbean. Donate, participate, organize!

With gratitude for what we have accomplished and excitement for what lies ahead,

GAVIN ARNALL

Director, LACS

Associate Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature

STUDENT AWARDS

Awards highlight student research spanning multiple U-M schools and destinations across the region

ALFREDO AND LUZ MARIA GUTIERREZ DISSERTATION AWARD



Garima Panwar was the recipient of the Alfredo and Luz Maria Gutierrez Dissertation Award, which supports one exceptional PhD candidate in Latin American Studies with dedicated time during the upcoming academic year to write their dissertation.

BOYCE FAMILY CARIBBEAN STUDIES GRANTS

Funded through generous donations from Drs. Paul and Simone Boyce, the Boyce Family Caribbean Studies Grant supports undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and professional school students pursuing research or internships in the Caribbean, with priority for projects in English-, French-, or Dutch-speaking countries. This year's recipients are **Jerianne Clarke**, an LSA undergraduate traveling to Barbados, and **Nikita Rohila**, a master's student in public health traveling to Grenada.



TINKER FIELD RESEARCH GRANTS

Administered by LACS and funded by the Tinker Foundation and the Rackham School of Graduate Studies, grants support master's, doctoral, and professional school students conducting preliminary fieldwork in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Starting this year, the grants can also support the study of Indigenous and Creole languages in the region, an expansion LACS negotiated with the Tinker Foundation that now applies across the full consortium of Tinker partner institutions.

2026 TINKER FIELD RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS

Stefania Becerra Lavado
Anthropology

Maria Beusterien
Romance Languages and Literatures

Alvaro Cabrera
Sociology

Julieta Goldenberg
Sociology

Julia McCuaig
Anthropology

Caroline New
Anthropology

Fernando Pliego Perez
Romance Languages and Literatures

Julianna Sanromán
Art & Design

Elizabeth Shen
Anthropology

Mrinaalika Sivakumar
Public Policy

Yeishmary Soto Muñiz
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Dominick Stoops
Environment and Sustainability



LACS AFFILIATED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Quito Project

The Quito Project (TQP) provides summer tutoring programs in math, reading comprehension, English, and leadership to primary school students in Quito, Ecuador, while also providing free healthcare and nutritious meals. TQP's education component is a student initiative from the University of Michigan and Universidad de San Francisco de Quito that works to minimize the achievement gap in low income zones by partnering with local communities and promoting global collaborations through education. As a multidisciplinary organization, The Quito Project has students and faculty from

schools across the University of Michigan, including Education; Medicine; Public Health; and Literature, Sciences & the Arts. Since its formation in 2004, **TQP has supported projects for over 8,000 community members** of San Martin, San Blas, Pifo, and Cumbaya in Quito, Ecuador.

This group is co-sponsored by the University of Michigan Marsal Family School of Education and receives additional support from the Center for Global Health Equity. TQP's faculty advisor is Susan Atkins, English Language Development (ELD) Lead Faculty and Lecturer IV in Teacher Education.



University of Michigan volunteers from The Quito Project lead small-group activities with children at the 14th annual summer camp in Quito, building relationships through play, conversation, and shared learning.

PHOTOS BY YULENI NAVARRO



Caribbean Student Association

The Caribbean Student Association is established for students with Caribbean heritage and/or those interested in learning more about Caribbean cultures. Members gain knowledge about the Caribbean while also giving back to island communities. Through campus involvement, the association strives to educate others about Caribbean life and to create projects and organize events to support Caribbean communities. Events include Wine and Dine, Culture Show, and Education Hour, which raise awareness about the islands and serve as opportunities to collaborate with other organizations representing the diaspora.

Afro-Brazilian Studies Research and Teaching Fellow

yan B. Morrison served as our 2025–26 Afro-Brazilian Studies Research and Teaching Fellow. Morrison completed his PhD at the University of Texas at Austin in 2023. During the 2025–26 academic year and his second year in residence at the University of Michigan, Morrison taught four courses: Blackness in Brazil: History, Culture, Politics (Fall 2025); Contemporary Debates and Advanced Concepts in Portuguese I (Fall 2025); The Afro-Latin American Frontier: Race, Gender and

Landscape in Brazil and Beyond (Winter 2026); Contemporary Debates and Advanced Concepts in Portuguese II (Winter 2026).

With undergraduate assistant Isabella H. de Lemos, he also curated an exhibit. “Back in Bahia: The Repatriation Journey of Afro-Brazilian Art from Detroit to Salvador” took place from February 2–26, 2026, at the International Institute Gallery and traced one of the largest repatriation efforts of Afro-Brazilian art to date. Led by the Detroit-based nonprofit Con/Vida: Popular Arts of the Americas, the initiative is returning more than 750 works of Afro-Brazilian popular art to Salvador, Bahia, where they will enter the collection of the National Museum of Afro-Brazilian Culture (MUNCAB). This exhibition highlighted selected works from the broader repatriation effort, recognizing the artists and cultural stewards in Brazil and Michigan who made this historic return possible.



University of Michigan Chamber Winds



Student participants in "Global Course Connections Brazil: Global Blackness" program visit the Museu Afro Brasil in São Paulo.

Morrison has been shortlisted for the PEN Presents: Brazil program by English PEN for his translation from the Portuguese of *Corsair in the Desert* by Brazilian author Marilene Felinto. Translators from across the globe, working in any of the languages of Brazil, were invited to submit translations of previously untranslated works in any form or genre for consideration.

In Summer 2025, he accompanied students participating in the "Global Course Connections Brazil: Global Blackness" program on a visit to the Museu Afro Brasil in São Paulo alongside Professor Frieda Ekotto. Students engaged with works by artists including Rosana Paulino, Sidney Amaral, and Heitor dos Prazeres through discussions with museum staff and faculty.

Ryan also delivered an invited lecture in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures titled "Black Geographies across the Pampas: Fugitivity and Internationalism in the Borderlands of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay," presenting research from his

current book project on Black cultural production and consciousness in the borderlands of the Southern Cone.

In Winter and Summer 2026, Morrison collaborated with Professor Courtney Snyder and Director of Bands Jason Fetting to prepare University of Michigan Chamber Winds students for their performance at Rio de Janeiro's Teatro Municipal during the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles Conference. He led an intensive introduction to Brazilian Portuguese and guided an arts-focused excursion in Rio centered on the city's musical traditions and cultural history in July.

Throughout the year, Morrison also participated in Portuguese *bate-papo* conversation hours sponsored by the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, bringing together undergraduate and graduate students alongside Brazilian students for informal language exchange and community building.

Indigenous Studies @ LACS

This was another big year for Indigenous Studies at LACS. As Indigenous language instruction across the country suffers due to federal funding cuts, we proudly continued to offer the life-changing experience of studying **Nahuatl** and **Quechua** to our students. Through the Big Ten Academic Alliance, we also saw an increase in enrollment of students from other universities seeking to take our Nahuatl and Quechua courses.

The Indigenous Studies Network is now composed of 15 faculty members who organize the Indigenous Studies Lecture Series; advise on Indigenous Studies curriculum; co-design and co-write research grants; and facilitate collaboration with the Program in Native American Studies and partners in the Schools of Art and Design, Education, Environment and Sustainability, Nursing, and the Matthaei Botanical Gardens.



MARGO ALHELM VIA PEXELS.COM

Teaching Quechua

BY ADELA CARLOS RIOS

Lecturer II in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, LSA

This year was an experience of teaching and learning Quechua in enriching ways. One of my most valuable and enriching experiences was reading, analyzing, and discussing oral traditional stories. I also had the great opportunity to attend and interact with the students from many different majors including Archeology, Physics, Anthropology, Linguistics, Literature, Art, etc. who

have become deeply immersed in the Quechua language and culture. The Quechua course has united us as a close group of fellow quechua speakers from different disciplines. Another enriching experience I had was learning about other teaching methodologies. I participated in conferences and workshops focused on teaching and learning languages organized by the Language Resource Center. All of this was possible due to my friendly and helpful colleagues at U-M.

Nahuatl in the News

Excerpted from [A Living Language](#), LSA Magazine Spring 2026

BY STEPHANIE WONG



**Coyote.
Chocolate.
Avocado.
Axolotl.**

You may not know it, but you might be speaking the language of the Aztecs.

Once the lingua franca of the Aztec Empire (1400–1600), Nahuatl (pronounced *NAA-waat*) is now the second most-spoken language in Mexico after Spanish. It is spoken natively in 16 Mexican states and has around 1.5 million speakers—and, for U-M students, it's taught at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) in a small but lively program.

U-M is one of a small number of universities in the country to offer a Nahuatl program—one of several Indigenous language programs at LSA. LACS partners with the Zacatecas Institute for Teaching and Research in Ethnology (IDIEZ)—a Mexican nonprofit—to connect LSA students with native speakers of Nahuatl.

Indigenous language study has not always been a part of LSA's diverse curriculum, but Gavin Arnall, director of LACS, stresses its ongoing importance. While Nahuatl is not a language indigenous to what is now known as the state of Michigan, its study and promotion furthers the goals of Native American and Indigenous studies: namely, sharing that Indigenous communities in the Americas are not only alive but thriving, even after centuries of forced displacement and assimilation.

"Someone can learn a language on their own using books or Duolingo. But to really get into it, you need to speak to other people—learn the culture behind the language, why it works the way it does."

DEREK CEBRIÁN OCAMPO
Ph.D. Student

Read the full story
in *LSA Magazine*

The Boban Aztec calendar wheel (ca. 1530) is an example of Nahuatl's use in both Latin alphabetic and pictographic form. Prior to Spanish contact, literate Aztecs used graphic symbols to communicate objects and ideas. Spanish colonizers began transliterating Nahuatl into the Latin alphabet, which is how it is written today.

COURTESY OF THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY

FEATURED EVENTS

LECTURE SERIES

Lessons of Authoritarianism & Democratic Resilience in Latin America

With support from a Global Engagement Grant from the Office of the Provost, LACS—working in collaboration with the Donia Human Rights Center and the Center for Emerging Democracies—organized a yearlong event series titled “Lessons of Authoritarianism & Democratic Resilience in Latin America.” The series featured a virtual teach-in, a film screening with faculty-led discussion, and three public talks with prominent scholars and activists from across Latin America, complemented by workshops for graduate students.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

MILEI'S SHOCK DOCTRINE AND FEMINIST RESISTANCE IN ARGENTINA

Lucía Cavallero

Universidad de Buenos Aires

OCTOBER 24, 2025

CUBA'S DIGITAL REVOLUTION: BETWEEN QUIESCENCE AND REVOLT

Harold Cárdenas Lema

Joven Cuba

Michaelanne Thomas

University of Michigan

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

“MEMORIA” AS RESISTANCE: COMPARATIVE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN CHILE AND ARGENTINA

Mayki Gorosito

Former Director of ESMA, Argentina

Juan Carlos Vega Briones

Museum of Memory and Human Rights, Chile

JANUARY 20, 2026

FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION: “I’M STILL HERE.”

Moderated by

Victoria Langland, *History*

Ana Guimarães, *RLL*

University of Michigan



JANUARY 27, 2026

LACS VIRTUAL TEACH-IN: VENEZUELA AND US IMPERIALISM

Andreína Chávez

Independent Journalist

Rebecca Hanson

University of Florida

Moderated by

Gavin Arnall

LACS Director, University of Michigan

Geo Maher

W.E.B. Du Bois Movement School

Alejandro Velasco

NYU

LACS Indigenous Studies Lecture Series

Organized by the Indigenous Studies Network of LACS, the ongoing Indigenous Studies Lecture Series invites leading activists and scholars to campus to share their work on and with Indigenous communities in the region.



MARCH 12, 2026

DESIGN AND TRANSFORMATION IN COMMUNAL POLITICS

Gladys Tzul Tzul
(Maya K'iché)

Guatemala

Notable Co-sponsored Events

NOVEMBER 12–13, 2025

CONFERENCE: HISTORIES OF SLAVERY, FREEDOM, AND THE LAW

in honor of Rebecca Scott

Back in Bahia



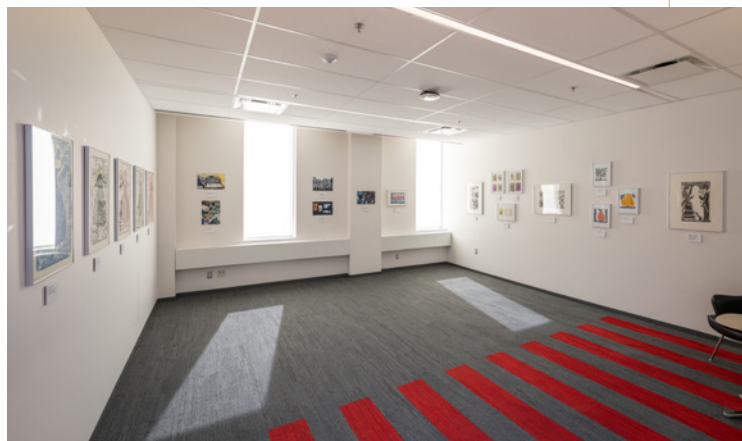
During the 2025–26 academic year, Ryan Morrison contributed to a range of arts, language and culture initiatives on Afro-Brazilian studies with LACS, through teaching, research, public humanities, and student engagement.

A central project this year was the exhibition **Back in Bahia: The Repatriation Journey of Afro-Brazilian Art from Detroit to Salvador**, presented at the International Institute Gallery in Weiser Hall in February 2026. The exhibition highlighted

one of the largest repatriation efforts of Afro-Brazilian art ever undertaken: the return of 666 works from the Detroit-based nonprofit Con/Vida: Popular Arts of the Americas to the National Museum of Afro-Brazilian Culture (MUNCAB) in Salvador, Bahia.

The collection was assembled over more than three decades by Con/Vida founders Marion Jackson and Barbara Cervenka through sustained collaboration with artists, families, and workshops across Northeastern Brazil. Produced largely by

Black self-taught artists in cities such as Recife, Caruaru, Juazeiro do Norte, Cachoeira, and Salvador, the works reflect the creative vitality and diasporic traditions of Afro-Brazilian popular art. The exhibition offered a space of recognition for the artists, communities, and cultural stewards in both Brazil and Michigan whose long-term commitments made the repatriation possible. Featured works included woodcut prints by João Francisco Borges, Nilo dos Santos, Givanildo Francisco da Silva, and José Miguel da Silva, alongside examples of *literatura de cordel*, popular printed pamphlets combining poetry, folklore, song, and social commentary.



LACS 2026 VIRTUAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Through its Virtual Residency Program, LACS supports the professional development of

University of Puerto Rico (UPR) faculty by increasing access to educational and research materials at U-M libraries and by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise among participants and U-M faculty.

The 2026 Virtual Residency Program participants are:

NADJA FUSTER PÉREZ, PHD

Nadja Fuster Pérez holds degrees in Hispanic studies and Hispanic linguistics from the University of Puerto Rico, as well as in linguistics and lexicography from the Real Academia Española and the Universidad de León, and a postgraduate degree in cultural administration from the Universidad de Córdoba (Argentina). She holds a PhD in English linguistics from the Río Piedras Campus of the University of Puerto Rico.

Since 2013, she has taught courses in Spanish, transatlantic literature, and

humanities at the College of General Studies, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. Her primary research interests include linguistic attitudes and ideologies, as well as race and popular culture in the Hispanic and Anglophone Caribbean.

She is a member of the African Studies Association, where she has participated as a speaker at its annual meetings.

YVONNE DENIS ROSARIO, PHD

Yvonne Denis Rosario is a writer, researcher, and associate professor at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. She holds a PhD in Puerto Rican and Caribbean literature and a master's degree in humanities with a concentration in creative writing. Her work explores Afro-Caribbean literature, cultural studies, and interdisciplinary approaches to art and discourse. She is the author of several books, including her most recent *El mito literario yoruba en la mujer negra caribeña* (PEN Puerto Rico International Award, 2022) and *Sra. Singer y el ganso negro* (National Prize for Children's Literature, 2024). Her research and creative work engage in questions of race, memory, and representation in Caribbean cultural production.



NICOLAS RAMOS ORTIZ, PHD

Nicolás Ramos is an assistant professor at the University of Puerto Rico Secondary School. He has worked at the lab schools since the fall of 2002. In 2006, he was appointed head of school and held that position until August 2014. Since then, he has been teaching English at the Secondary School. He has worked with student teachers for over 15 years



and currently teaches a seminar on Legal Aspects of Education to teacher candidates at the College of Education. Nicolás' professional interests include research and advocacy for the establishment of education as a constitutional right.

FRANCISCO FORTUÑO BERNIER, PHD

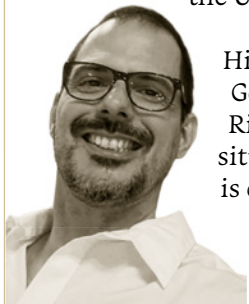
Francisco J. Fortuño Bernier is a political theorist at the Department of Political Science of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras. His current research is focused on constructing an account of twentieth-century Puerto Rican political thought in its Caribbean and Latin American contexts. He has written on contemporary political strategies, the politics of images of repression in Puerto Rico, and the contested memories of the Puerto Rican Radical Tradition. He holds a PhD in political science from The Graduate Center, City University of New York.





ALEJANDRO CARPIO, PHD

Alejandro Carpio finished his PhD in Hispanic studies at the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras, where he specialized in Spanish Golden Age literature. He is currently a full professor at the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey.



His scholarly work spans Spanish Golden Age literature, Puerto Rican letters, and a range of topics situated between these fields. He is currently engaged in a project documenting and critically assessing Puerto Rican literary and cinematic production from the past fifteen years. In addition,

he is interested in applying Darwinian approaches to the study of Baroque drama. His ongoing research explores how evolutionary perspectives can illuminate the interpretation of early modern theatrical texts.

FRANCES J. SANTIAGO TORRES, PHD, PDSO, ARO

A native of Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico, Frances J. Santiago Torres earned a bachelor's degree in French from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. She obtained a master's degree in French literature and culture from the Department

of Romance Languages at Syracuse University. Her doctoral degree is from the French PhD program at the CUNY-Graduate Center. Currently, she is a professor of Francophone language, culture, and literatures and teaches in the MA Cultural Studies

Program at the UPR, Mayagüez Campus. She has been a research associate and visiting professor at the *Centre de*

Recherche: Textes et Francophonie at the University of Cergy-Pontoise, France. Her academic work has been published in Puerto Rico, Cuba, Guadeloupe and Martinique, Canada, France, and the United States. She is currently translating into Spanish the articles of Martinican writer Suzanne Césaire.



SUPPORTING THE CENTER

The Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies contributes to the University of Michigan community beyond degree programs. We support students, scholars, and faculty, and lobby for faculty hiring and courses focused on Latin America and the Caribbean.

LACS sincerely thanks our generous donors for their continued support. Without you, our work would not be possible.

HOW TO GIVE:

Donate online at:
ii.umich.edu/lacs/donate

Or, mail a check made out to the
University of Michigan to:

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

University of Michigan
Weiser Hall, 500 Church St., Ste. 500
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1042

Donations are sought in the
LACS Strategic Fund 303654.

Weiser Hall, Suite 500
500 Church Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1042
lacs.office@umich.edu
ii.umich.edu/lacs



FACEBOOK.COM/UMICHLACS



X.COM/UMICHLACS



YOUTUBE.COM/UMICHLACS



LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/UMICHLACS



**© 2026 REGENTS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

Jordan B. Acker, Huntington Woods;
Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc; Mark
J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor; Paul W.
Brown, Ann Arbor; Sarah Hubbard,
Okemos; Denise Ilitch, Birmingham;
Carl J. Meyers, Dearborn; Katherine E.
White, Ann Arbor; Domenico Grasso
(ex officio)

**NONDISCRIMINATION
POLICY STATEMENT**

The University of Michigan, including the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Flint campuses as well as Michigan Medicine, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX Office (ECRT), 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432, 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388