

Inaugural Awardees of the Horacio Roque Ramirez Central American Studies Scholarship



"When I shared the news of this scholarship with my peers, they were excited to hear that there was a scholarship at UCSB that was made to acknowledge Central American history, a history that is often overlooked. My peers and I felt seen and supported by UCSB through the establishment of this scholarship... This scholarship represents more than financial support for my academic career, it is a symbol of representation and acknowledgment of Central American history, culture, and community."

Esther Mejia

(Political Science and History
of Public Policy and Law)

"This scholarship holds great significance to me, as it not only supports my educational aspirations but also represents a crucial step towards promoting the importance of Central American representation in higher education. I am empowered to share the rich knowledge and history of our beautiful Central American region, educating, and inspiring my peers along the way. I am deeply honored to be a recipient and committed to making a lasting impact in the field of Central American Studies".



Mayerly Ortega

(History of Public Policy
and Law, and Spanish)

Honorable Mentions



Xochitl Andrea Amaya
(Chicana/o Studies & Sociology)



Michelle Novakovic
(Chicana/o Studies)



Violeta Valdez
(Pre-Sociology)



Jasmine Altamirano
(Chicana/o Studies)

*To donate to the Horacio Roque
Ramirez Central American Studies
Scholarship, scan QR code*



Destiny Cisneros
(Chicana/o Studies & Sociology)

The Horacio Roque Ramirez Memorial Symposium

Speakers



Dr. Leisy Abrego
(UCLA)

*Leisy Abrego is Professor in the Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies at UCLA. She is a member of the first large migration of Salvadorans who arrived in Los Angeles in the early 1980s. Her research and teaching interests—inspired in great part by her family’s experiences—are in Central American studies and law & society. She writes about the intimate consequences of U.S. empire and immigration policies for Central American migrants and Latinx families in the United States. Her books include *Sacrificing Families: Navigating Laws, Labor, and Love Across Borders* (Stanford University Press, 2014), *Immigrant Families* (co-authored with Cecilia Menjivar and Leah Schmalzbauer, Polity, 2017), and *We Are Not Dreamers: Undocumented Scholars Theorize Undocumented Life in the United States* (co-edited with Genevieve Negrón-Gonzales, Duke University Press, 2020). Her scholarship analyzing legal consciousness, illegality, and legal violence has garnered numerous awards. She also dedicates much of her time to supporting and advocating for refugees and immigrants by writing editorials and pro-bono expert declarations in asylum cases.*



Dr. Eddy Francisco Alvarez Jr.
(CSU Fullerton)

*Dr. Eddy Francisco Alvarez Jr. is a first-generation college student and a former elementary school teacher. An interdisciplinary scholar, he obtained a Ph.D. in Chicana and Chicano Studies from University of California, Santa Barbara. His research interests include Chicana and Latinx aesthetics, performance, and popular culture, Gender and Sexuality, Queer oral histories, Los Angeles queer Latinx histories, Queer of color theories, Jotería Studies, Jotería pedagogies, Queer Space, Feminist geographies, Sound Studies, and Critical Fat Studies. His academic and creative work has been published in *Aztlan: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, *Revista Bilingüe/Bilingual Review*, *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, and *Sounding Out! The Sound Studies Blog*. Currently, he is working on a book manuscript titled *Finding Sequins in the Rubble: Memory, Space and Aesthetics in Queer Latinx Los Angeles*, an oral history and archival project which maps physical and ephemeral sites of memory and quotidian moments of pleasure and resistance for queer and trans Chicana and Latinx communities in LA.*



Dr. William A. Calvo-Quirós
(University of Michigan)

*William A. Calvo-Quirós is an associate professor of American Culture and Latinx Studies at the University of Michigan. He holds a Ph.D. in Chicana/o Studies from the University of California Santa Barbara (2014) and a Ph.D. from the Department of Architecture and Environmental Design at Arizona State University (2011). His book *Undocumented Saints: The Politics of Migrating Devotions* (Oxford University Press, 2022), winner of the 2023 Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize of the American Society of Church History, investigates the migration of “catholic” vernacular devotions and the racial tensions around popular religiosity within the US, as well as the politics of surveillance and control around Latino religiosity. His new research project looks at the intersection of faith, religiosity, and affectivity online. His other areas of interest also include Latinx aesthetics, Chicana feminist and decolonial methodologies, and the power of love, empathy, and forgiveness to formulate new racial and gender discourses. We can find more about his research and teaching at www.barriology.com*