

El NOTICIERO

IUPLR

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What's New

- Get to know UIC's Latin American & Latino Studies Director Amalia Pallares
- Updates from IUPLR member centers across the nation
- New announcements from IUPLR Headquarters
- New opportunities for scholars of all levels

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Meet the Latin American and Latino Studies Program at the University of Illinois–Chicago

The Latin American and Latino Studies Program is an academic program that offers undergraduate and graduate courses on Latin America and Latinos in the United States. An interdisciplinary program with its own faculty, it focuses on Latin American history and politics, and culture and the migration and development of Latino/as in the United States, with emphasis on Chicago



and the Midwest. In addition, the program cross-lists related courses in departments such as Economics, Anthropology, Political Science, Art History, Literature (Spanish, French, Portuguese, and English), and History. The Latin American and Latino Studies Program was created in 1974, and is unique in its coverage of Latin America and the diverse Latin American nationalities in the United States.

Q & A with the Director: Dr. Amalia Pallares

Dr. Pallares talks to El Noticiero about the significance of interdisciplinarity and transnationalism in Latino Studies.

Congratulations on completing your first year as Director! Can you tell us a bit about the transition from Professor/researcher to Director has been like?

Wow, it's been a big transition because in addition to continuing some of my teaching commitment and all of my research commitment, being director of a program like this is really rewarding but it's also very complicated. This goes beyond a normal kind of value of scholarly research and teaching to a student body because you need to add to that our mission and the fact that



Q & A Continued

most of our students are underrepresented. So we're playing a big role in mentoring and providing a home for students who are underrepresented and many of them first generation college students, and we are also playing a key role in the community. A lot of our programming often has one hand in the scholarship and one hand in the community, and a lot of the talks we give are talks that have relevance to the Latino community in Chicago and beyond. Through our programming we try to provide our students a connection to the world. When they leave the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) whether they're in the graduate program or the undergraduate program, they've already had some exposure and connections to different Latino communities in which they may perhaps live and work. So that's a responsibility and added to that we have our community partners that are linked to us through our master's program internships. I'm in the Chancellor's advisory committee to make the college more diverse, so we're playing these roles together with other programs like African-American studies, gender and women's studies, Asian-American studies, and helping shape what diversity looks like in the University. I'm also working with units like the UIC Latino Cultural Center (LCC), Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES), and the Hispanic Center of Excellence to apply for a grant from the Department of Education that provide significant funds to allow UIC as a Hispanic-serving institution to retain and graduate more Latino students. Those projects are in addition to the other internal bread and butter things we need to do.

You are also celebrating 40 years of Latin American and Latino studies on the UIC campus. Tell us a bit about how this important anniversary impacts your understand of Latino Studies.

Our program was created because of student activism and student pressure on the University to create a space for them to learn about themselves and their histories and Latino communities and Latin America. It's distinct in that it was created as a Latin American and Latino studies with that intent,

there were courses that were offered in both from the beginning. In that sense, the only similar program to UIC's at its inception was the Santa Cruz program. Since then many others have adopted this model, but when our program got together the standard was Latin American studies programs that were kind of created because of the Cold War with the motivation that we study economic and political development so that the rest of Latin America wouldn't go communist. We don't have that origin, so we never had that orientation. At that time when our program was created in the 70s, most of the programs like it were national programs meaning they were Chicano programs or Puerto Rican programs, which corresponds to the politics of that time. It was not just the distinctive population of Chicago, which was a mixture of Mexican and Puerto Rican, but the collaborative politics among the students, the Mexican and Puerto Rican students, which enabled it to be a Latino-oriented studies program from the beginning. So in a way we are one of the first institutional educational units that emblemize or that represent this pan-ethnicity among Latinos in the education world to the point where I know a historian who is studying the creation of the UIC program as a symbol and important indicator of pan-ethnicity. Nobody had yet thought about it in terms of education. This UIC effort precedes those late 70s, early 80s efforts, so sometimes we don't

think of institutions as a reflection of their times and community, but I think in this case it's very much so. In a way, the creation of the LALS program, and the education of people who went on to become engaged in activism maybe shaped that later pan-ethnicity. That became not only LALS but LARES and the LCC, and that's really important, too, that there was a more holistic vision. It wasn't just about creating a curriculum and a major for the students, it was also about providing that support. Because it was a program created by the community, I always perceive my accountability as being to a broader Latino community and not just to the University.

Talk about the interdisciplinary nature of this program. What makes this approach significant?

I think when you're looking at communities and countries of origin that are important, I don't understand how you could study this without researchers, without relying on different disciplines. If you are looking at studying the demographics or the social processes and social movements, the political organizing of communities, it's important to have the tools of those who are in political science, social science, and anthropology. Now that's a very basic level of interdisciplinarity, but I think at a more interesting level it becomes about the dialogue and the communication between us and

between our research and how we bring that dialogue to the classroom, our work, and the way we represent the program to the world. That's where you have another level of interdisciplinarity, which is really engaging students in thinking about questions and problems from a different number of perspectives. And not thinking of one discipline as able to provide all the answers, but thinking about how they can posit questions that might be answered in different ways by different disciplines. I think the questions that we have in the Latino communities and in Latin America are definitely those kind of pressing questions that involve having perspective from different disciplines. I think that provides much richer experiences as we prepare our students to go out into the world. I think that it's important that they be informed not just by the different disciplines, but this dialogue among the different disciplines.

Please talk a bit about the differences in the masters and undergraduate programs. How do you see them uniquely coexisting within the field of Latino Studies? How do you take measures to support them fittingly?

I see our undergraduate program as one that exposes students to a broad slew of questions and helps them think transnationally. I like to think that our undergrads are really doing the kind of coursework where they can cross these bridges all the time and they are learning through the crossing. So going back to these old models of what they were like, either Puerto Rican studies, Mexican studies or Latin American studies, those bridges were not being crossed. And so to think about what does it mean to look at Latin America from the perspective of somebody who is also taking courses on Latino studies, someone who maybe has a migrant history or is a migrant themselves. They're not looking at Latin America necessarily in the same ways that somebody else would be looking at it as a third world region that needs to be developed. They're looking at it in a very different way and they

Overview of student struggle to found LALS at Jane Addams Hull-House Museum



understand the connection between sending communities and receiving communities, the ways in which in a time of increasing globalization there are important connections between the two. I don't think you can engage with Latino communities if you don't understand something about Latin America, and not just beyond your own visits and what your parents taught you, but to really systematically gain an understanding of Latin America. It's very hard to study Latin America now without understanding that a big chunk of Latin America is in the US, and what that means, and what those back-and-forth relationships and networks mean, and how they change the US but also how they change Latin America. So I like to think that we prepare our students better to go out into the workforce by making those connections explicit, and making sure that they have courses in which they understand both of those worlds. We don't promote specialization in one or the other. We purposefully want them to create their own set of electives beyond the required courses where they can explore their own interest in both and in this process take courses that engage with both Latin American and Latino studies. For our graduate program, we very much have the vision of a program that would allow students who came from any discipline and who felt like maybe they were very interested in Latin America and Latino studies, but had not had the opportunity as undergraduates to really explore it. Or, sometimes there are students who did but felt like they wanted to learn more but were contemplating

graduate school. So we want it to be a space to get some of this interdisciplinary grad level research in order to maybe (a) transition into a work setting where they can use the research and practical skills they've learned through the internship in order to secure a job in working with Latino communities or working in Latin America, or (b) if they were thinking about grad school but weren't absolutely certain, this would be a way of getting involved, and what I mean by graduate school is to see if they want to pursue the PhD, or if they'd prefer to do something different. We felt that in this day and age a lot of jobs are much more accessible to people who have master's degrees, and that we could really enable students to develop an expertise in Latin America and Latino studies that would really give them an edge in terms of working in these communities. So we're doing slightly different things but they're both important and interconnected.

You've begun a study abroad program for LALS students. How do you see this impacting the program?

Our students and our majors don't really travel abroad that much, unfortunately, and those that do usually go to Barcelona. And we're a Latin American studies program, I think some may go to Guadalajara. But these are not even programs that are part of the University, they're connected to other universities. I felt that a faculty-led study abroad program was important because it meant that one of our faculty was going to go out there with a small group of students and help them experience, in



"Storming the Gates" screening at the UIC Latino Cultural Center

Q & A Continued

this case Chiapas, in a way that would be tremendously life changing for them. Because the faculty who go with them are experts on Mexico and some of them have actually done research and have many connections there and will work there with the Mexican Solidarity Network. This is not only for majors, but we have a couple scholarships for our majors so they're definitely encouraged to be a part of this. When you look at how to make our majors competitive in the job market, an experience of study or research abroad is really important. That's also why we created the internships in the graduate program and we look forward to the possibility of creating an internship or service learning at the undergraduate level.

Anything else you'd like us to know about your program?

There is another new program that we have some support for from a Mexican foundation and we're applying for some IUPLR support. This is really unprecedented because DACA is so recent, it's only been in the last two years with a special permission that youth can travel. The connection in Mexico was initially through an American scholar who wrote a book called *Los Otros Dreamers*. I was talking to some youth and they said we'd really like to go to Mexico, but with a purpose to go do something meaningful. And I thought well there are these otros dreamers and our youth who have been so politically involved and played such a big role, I thought we can do something. So we said to some NGOs, what if you invite the people who are really committed and really network and they really have a trajectory, so they start building, it kind of becomes their charge, and part of it is making a bigger encounter with many more youth or whatever they want

to do. We can really build up from this core of leaders. Because you could have something that has hundreds of youth come somewhere, but if you don't have a direction or an agenda it may just be something fun but nothing may come of it afterwards. So we thought because we truly believe in order to significantly change migration policy, we need to have a transnational agenda. You really have to have people from both receiving and sending countries coming together and saying, what is this really about, what are we going to do, how can we change this, how can we work together. We know there's transnational movements in terms of labor, in terms of human rights, indigenous rights, but in terms of creating a transnational movement, network and advocacy among the youth who have been so active here, and also why we came to be really active in Mexico, you basically have to get them together. It sounds simple but I think once we get them together and they begin a process of dialogue and actually by the end of the three days creating an agenda, like this is what we're going to work towards, you can begin to really play a role in significant and potentially social and political change. They've had so many similar experiences and yet they're so divided because of borders. They're facing their own major challenges. So I think they're both very vested in seeing what they can change in terms of migration policy



Dr. Pallares speaking at LALS 40th Anniversary event at Jane Addams Hull-House Museum

both in Mexico and the US. And we're bringing even Central American youth to DF. So this is really a kind of hemispheric project that I think has great potential. I can't know all the potential it will have, but I'm proud we're playing a role in this. Once everyone meets in Mexico they go to their respective communities and continue organizing. In April mostly with the Hispanic Studies program, and University of Chicago is chipping in, we are bringing the author of this book and two of the people she features, and we're starting to have the youth who were selected engage in the meeting with them. Already we're going to build into the process through this initial meeting with youth to have them start planning for the July event in DF. Piece by piece that's how we build power and how we build resources.

Learn more about UIC's Latin American & Latino Studies Program online: <http://lals.uic.edu/lals>

Amalia Pallares is Associate Professor of Political Science and Latin American and Latino Studies and Director of the Latin American and Latino Studies Program. She has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Texas. She studies social movements, ethnicity and race in Latin America and in the US, focusing on the relationship between political activism and identity formation among newly politicized groups. Her forthcoming book "Regarding Family: Immigrant Activism and the Politics of Non-Citizenship" focuses on the different ways in which family and the family separation issue is politicized in immigrant rights struggles. Prof. Pallares teaches courses on Latin American Politics, comparative Politics, Latino Politics, identity politics, social movements, race, ethnicity and politics in the Americas, and state theory.

Member Center News

The newest list of achievements from IUPLR Member Centers across the nation.

Chicano Studies at the University of Texas at El Paso presented "One Billion Rising: A Global Revolution Against Sexual Violence" on February 14th at Café Mayapan with prayer and performance by Matachines Guadalupana, NY-based playwright/actress Yadira De La Riva, local poet/performance artist Viva Flores, and Shaka Toki. The Program also sponsored a book presentation of "Courage, Resistance & Woman in Ciudad Juárez: Challenges to Militarization" by Drs. Kathleen Staudt and Zulma Mendez, and the "2015 Paso del Norte Region State of Homelessness Conference—The Faces of Homelessness: Voices and Images of Homelessness in the US-Mexico Border Region." In March, they will sponsor a lecture on "Rethinking the Argentine Dirty War (1976-1983) and the Holocaust" by Dr. Federico Finchelstein, New School for Social Research, the "Seminario Binacional Diversidad sin Violencia," and lecture/book presentation on "Narrating Narcos of Culiacán and Medellín" by Dr. Gabriela Polit Dueñas, Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Texas at Austin. They also announce a virtual Día de los Muertos celebration sponsored by the Smithsonian Latino Virtual Museum and complemented with live displays at UTEP.

Latino Research Center at the University of Nevada Reno will be adding two new works to its Book Series in March. The first, *From Snowcaps to Desert Flats*, anthologizes the prose and poetry of Nevada authors, edited by Dr. Emma Sepulveda and Dr. Mar Inestrillas. *The Country I Call Home* is a collection of stories from undocumented youth in the United States, edited by Dr. Emma Sepulveda and Ivon Padilla. The latest issue of our research journal



Border-Lines came out last December. Our peer reviewed journal features scholarly articles from throughout the US drawn from a variety of disciplines such as Anthropology, Education, Geography, Human Health, Literary and Cultural Studies, Political Science, Social Work, and Sociology. Our Director, Dr. Emma Sepulveda, has been appointed by President Obama to the 12-member J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, which selects students, scholars, teachers and others from the US and abroad to participate in Fulbright exchanges, an international educational exchange program for grantees to study, teach or conduct research.

The Latin American and Latino Studies Program at UIC launched a Summer Program in Chiapas, Mexico led by LALS affiliate and anthropology faculty Molly Doane, who will introduce them to the world of coffee production, food and organic agriculture in Mexico. Additionally, the following professors have been awarded for their research or are publishing a new title: Ralph Cintron announces a new publication as co-editor of *Culture, Catastrophe, and Rhetoric: The Texture of Political Action*; Alexandra Filindra will publish papers in *Social Science Quarterly*, *Migration Studies*, and *Latin American Research Review*, and will receive

over \$100,000 in grants; Chris Boyer organized the "Diet of Globalization" thanks to funding from the "Humanities Without Walls" project funded by the Mellon Foundation, and he is now editing the papers for publication in a special issue of *The Americas* after recent presentations in Chicago, Buenos Aires, and Guadalajara; Kristine M. Molina was awarded a two-year (\$150,000) grant from the Foundation for Child Development Young Scholars Program for her project entitled, "The effects of discrimination on social, academic, and mental health outcomes of Puerto Rican children: An inter-generational and Multi-wave Study," among several other research awards.

The Smithsonian Latino Center (SLC) announces two opportunities for students this summer: Learn more about the 10th anniversary of the Young Ambassadors Program held June 22-88 in D.C. for high school seniors: <http://latino.si.edu/programs/youngambassadors.htm> Immediately following on June 29th, the Latino Museum Studies Program will welcome a select group of graduate students for an intensive experience exploring Latino art and culture: http://latino.si.edu/programs/programs_LMSP.htm Our *America: The Latino Presence in American Art* opened at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in 2013 with support from the Smithsonian Latino Center, highlighting a pioneering collection of Latino art since the 1950s. The traveling show is currently on view at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts in Salt Lake City through May 17. The National Portrait Gallery is currently exhibiting *Portraiture Now: Staging the Self*, featuring Latino artists' exploration of identity formation and migration. It remains on view in D.C. until Apr. 12, 2015, and will travel to NYC and Albuquerque.

Noticias de IUPLR: *From Headquarters to the Capital*

Warm welcomes

IUPLR is thrilled to announce some new faces. Our new Director of the Chicago Office, Nancy Villafranca, comes to us with more than 14 years of experience in Museum Education. She has already hit the ground running with our upcoming *Latino Art Now!* Conference (LAN!), which will convene in Chicago, April 7–9, 2016. **Please contact her with LAN! and other inquiries: nvilla5@uic.edu**

We also extend a hearty welcome to our three new member centers. Thanks for joining us: Lourdes Gouveia, Director of the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha; Emma Sepulveda, Director of the Latino Research Center at the University of Nevada-Reno; and Ron Mize, Director of the Center for Latin@ Studies & Engagement at Oregon State University. We look forward to supporting your contributions in research and scholarship!

And another big thanks to Meghan Hammond, our new Postdoctoral Fellow and Mellon Program Coordinator. She is providing IUPLR Mellon Predoctoral Fellows with dissertation support. Six fellows will be funded annually throughout the course of this three-year grant, receiving a yearly stipend of \$25,000, a professor/mentor in Latino studies, monthly teleconferences among the fellows and formal project presentations at conferences. Fellows will have their first meeting at IUPLR's 5th SIGLO XXI Conference, to be convened April 23–25, 2015 at the University of Notre Dame.

Upcoming conferences

If you haven't signed up for SIGLO XXI yet, there's still time! This year's conference welcomes renowned author and UIC professor, Luis Alberto Urrea, as keynote speaker. Along with the multitude of scholars visiting us from near and far, we will consider the state and evolution of Latino studies between nations, regions, and disciplines. **Learn more: <http://iuplr.uic.edu/iuplr/2015-siglo-xxi-conference>**

Since 2005, the *Latino Art Now!* Conference has become the leading national forum for artists, art historians, art professionals, educators, scholars, critics, and art dealers. Its overarching conceptual aim is to explore U.S. Latino art and its relationship to contemporary American visual culture and art while advancing awareness, education, scholarship and knowledge in this emerging field of inquiry. IUPLR received \$25,000 from the Joyce Foundation to support outreach efforts for LAN! These and other conference activities will be advanced in partnership with community-based organizations including the National Museum of Mexican Art and the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance. A call has been made to other local museums and galleries to highlight Chicago Latino art under the rubric of *The Spring of Latino Art*. **Learn more: <http://latino.si.edu/LatinoArtNow/index.html>**

The good work continues

Afro-Latinos in Movement: Critical Approaches to Blackness and Transnationalism in the Americas was the first public event from a 2014 IUPLR Working Group, hosted on October 31, 2014 by the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame. The conference and an accompanying volume, for which Professor Jennifer Jones will serve as coeditor, explore broad questions of black identity and representation, transnationalism and diaspora, with a particular interest in research on Afro-Latinos in the United States. Speakers for this national conference included Alejandro de la Fuente, the Director of the Afro-Latin American Research Institute at Harvard University, and Miriam Jiménez Román and Juan Flores, editors of *The Afro-Latin@ Reader: History and Culture in the United States* and leaders of the *Afrolatin@ Forum*.

Juan Flores passed away in December and was a noted scholar, as IUPLR Director Nena Torres mentioned in a message to member centers, he was "a major contributor to Latino Studies and a strong advocate voice for Latinos" and had been eager to work with IUPLR in other capacities. Our deepest condolences go out to his loved ones.

In honor of the continued accomplishments and discoveries of our colleagues within Latino studies, IUPLR proudly announces three new working groups to be funded in 2015/16. They include: University of Illinois at Chicago, Latin American and Latino Studies Program (Undocumented Youth and Organizing), University of Texas, Austin, Center for Mexican American Studies & Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies (Linguistics and Latino Speech Communities), and University of Notre Dame, Institute for Latino Studies (Art and Transnational Experiences). The *Afro-Latinos in Movement* IUPLR Working Group will also continue its efforts.



From LAN! planning session at National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago

The Inter-University Program for Latino Research and
The Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame
Cordially invite you

IUPLR FIFTH BIENNIAL SIGLO XXI CONFERENCE

INTRA-LATINOS/AS: ENTRE LATINOS/AS:
RECONCEPTUALIZING NATIONS, REGIONS, AND DISCIPLINES

APRIL 23-25

The IUPLR Fifth Biennial Conference explores a rethinking of paradigms to help inform a new understanding of Latinos and a complex social phenomena.

Featuring Keynote Speaker:
Luis Alberto Urrea, LAS Distinguished Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago

IUPLR Distinguished Lecture:
Luis Ricardo Fraga, Arthur Foundation Endowed Professor of Transformative Latino Leadership and Professor of Political Science, University of Notre Dame

Open to the Public, Registration:
\$100 Full Registration / \$35 per Day (Early Bird until February 15, 2015)

\$25 Students with ID
UIC & ND Students Free with ID & Pre-registration

For Conference information visit:
<http://iuplr.uic.edu/iuplr/2015-siglo-xxi-conference>

For Registration visit:
https://notredame-web.ungerboeck.com/coe/coe_p1_all.aspx?oc=10&cc=ALLREG

The Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) is a national consortium of twenty-five university-based centers dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about Latinos in the United States. Its principal objective since its inception in 1983 is to foster collaborative, interdisciplinary, and comparative research on the nation's Latino groups. IUPLR works to expand the pool of Latino scholarship and leadership while increasing the availability of policy-relevant, Latino-focused research.

APRIL 23 – 25, 2015
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame Conference Center

IUPLR
INTER-UNIVERSITY PROGRAM FOR LATINO RESEARCH

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

UIC

Southwest

Latinos

INSTITUTE FOR LATINO STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

IMAGE:
René Nago Arce,
Oca Experimentos,
Oca Identidad. Linocut,
9 1/2 x 14 1/2 in., 2002
Courtesy of the artist.



Chicago Latino Art The Local is Global

April 7 – 9, 2016

Chicago, Illinois

Conference Venues:

Chicago Cultural Center
University of Illinois at Chicago
National Museum of Mexican Art
Puerto Rican Arts Alliance



The Chicago Latino Art Now! Conference will provide an in-depth and objective assessment of the Latino art contours and forces currently shaping it. A city with a long and rich tradition in the visual arts, and creative Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central, and South American artistic populations, will serve as the setting to examine and rethink Latino art.

This landmark gathering, now in its fifth edition, will consider historical reassessments, directions, and developments in institutional infrastructure, documentation, and scholarship; critical evaluations of production in emerging Latino communities; and frameworks for presentation and reception in museums, fairs and galleries.

LAN! is organized by the Inter-University Program for Latino Research (IUPLR) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the Smithsonian Latino Center, the National Museum of Mexican Art and the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance. IUPLR is a consortium of twenty-seven university-based centers dedicated to the advancement of the Latino intellectual presence in the United States.

LAN! is sponsored by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), the University of Illinois Office of Public and Government Affairs, the Smithsonian Latino Pool administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center, Southwest Airlines, Boeing Foundation and The Joyce Foundation. ¡Gracias!

Calls for Applications: Jobs, Papers, Fellowships, etc.

The College of Liberal Arts at the University of Massachusetts Boston seeks a senior-level faculty member who will serve as Director of a new Graduate Program in Transnational, Cultural and Community Studies (TCCS), starting September 1, 2015. The program responds to the dramatic changes in the nature of population movements across the world, their profound impact on the experience and meaning of culture, community, intersectional social identities, citizenship and other relations between individuals and societies in both sending societies and the US, and the need to develop transdisciplinary theories and methods bridging local and global processes and generating partnerships supporting problem-solving and applied inquiry. TCCS engages the local, diasporic, and transnational experiences of racialized groups in the US through a transdisciplinary framework. Review of applications began February 16 and continue until the position is filled.

More info: <http://umb.interviewexchange.com/candapply.jsp?JOBID=55930>

The Smithsonian Latino Center's Young Ambassadors Program (YAP) is a national program for graduating high school seniors that fosters the next generation of Latino leaders in the arts, sciences, and humanities via the Smithsonian Institution and its resources. YAP is a college preparatory and leadership program that encourages participants to explore various academic and career opportunities through the lens of the Latino experience. Students who have demonstrated interest and commitment to the arts, sciences, or humanities as it pertains to Latino communities will be selected to participate in an all-expenses paid interdisciplinary training seminar in D.C., followed by a 4-week internship in a preselected museum/cultural center in the U.S./Puerto Rico.

More info: <http://latino.si.edu/Education/YAP>
Deadline: April 6, 2015

The Smithsonian Latino Center's Latino Museum Studies Program (LMSP) was created in 1994 to increase the representation, documentation, research, knowledge and interpretation of Latino art, culture and history. The program focuses on developing museum practice within a framework of Latino cultural studies and is offered in two components. LMSP is open to graduate students enrolled or engaged in the fields of Latino and Latin American art, culture and history; these include but are not limited to visual arts, sociology, performing arts, literature, cultural anthropology and related studies. Successful candidates should have an active interest in theoretical and practical issues related to museum fields or cultural centers and have original ideas to contribute regarding the representation and interpretation of Latino visual and material culture.

More info: <http://latino.si.edu/Education/Studies>

Deadline: April 17, 2015

The Smithsonian Institution seeks a Museum Curator in the Political History Division within the National Museum of American History (NMAH). The employee will serve as the Museum Curator (Political History Latino) is responsible for carrying out the research, collections management, exhibitions development and education ensuring to meet the mission of the museum. Research includes an in-depth study of Latino American political history, general civil rights history, and the history of labor movements throughout American History, and produces research products (books, articles, new media, exhibitions, etc.).

More info: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/397045000>

Deadline: May 8, 2015

The University of Illinois Press series, Latinos in Chicago and the Midwest, promotes an understanding of regional and historical differences in Latino communities and of the ways in which Latinos in Chicago and throughout the

Midwest construct their own sense of Latinidad and cultural difference. It offers new conceptual frameworks for the study of interlatino dynamics in this understudied region as well as comparative studies with other regions in the US and in transnational relations with Latin America. The series editors seek topics that shed new light on the issues that impact Latino/a lives in the Midwest. They welcome inquiries and questions from scholars, journalists, writers, and artists, envisioning a series of books that are not exclusively academic but from a wide array of disciplines and discourses.

More info: press.uillinois.edu/books/find_books.php?type=series&search=lcm

Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños director Edwin Melendez and **CUNY Dominican Studies Institute** director Ramona Hernandez have joined forces to investigate common difficulties in their constituencies and find common strategies to influence the political system. The goal is to challenge the political system into ameliorating these economic, social and educational barriers. "We want to understand where the points of contact are in inter-ethnic relations, and not just between Dominicans and Puerto Ricans, but also among all ethnicities," Meléndez said. The Centro-CUNY DSI partnership has called for research proposals focusing on the interactions between these two Latino communities and their relationship with other Hispanic, racial and ethnic groups. The resulting academic papers will be presented at a major forum currently planned for May 2015, and considered for publication in a special issue of the peer-reviewed *CENTRO Journal*.

More info: tinyurl.com/n3ubso3

Upcoming Events

March 27–28

**The Julian Samora Research Institute
Conference**

“Neoliberalism and Public Higher Education.”

**Michigan State University
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
East Lansing, MI**

*Keynote presentations: Lawrence Busch
(Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Michigan
State University), Sheila Slaughter (Louise McBee
Professor of Higher Education at the University
of Georgia), John V. Lombardi (former university
senior administrator).*

More info: [http://jsri.msu.edu/events/
neoliberalism-and-public-higher-education-
conference](http://jsri.msu.edu/events/neoliberalism-and-public-higher-education-conference)

April 23-25

**The Inter-University Program for Latino
Research 5th SIGLO XXI Conference**

“Intra-Latinos/as: Entre Latinos/as:
Reconceptualizing Nations, Regions, and
Disciplines”.

**The University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame Conference Center
South Bend, IN**

*Keynote speaker: Luis Alberto Urrea, LAS
Distinguished Professor, University of Illinois at
Chicago*

*IUPLR Distinguished Lecture: Luis Ricardo
Fraga, Arthur Foundation Endowed Professor of
Transformative Latino Leadership and Professor of
Political Science, University of Notre Dame*

More info: [http://iuplr.uic.edu/iuplr/2015-siglo-
xxi-conference](http://iuplr.uic.edu/iuplr/2015-siglo-xxi-conference)

IUPLR

INTER-UNIVERSITY PROGRAM
for LATINO RESEARCH

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IUPLR is a national consortium of university-based centers dedicated to the advancement of the Latino intellectual presence in the United States. IUPLR works to expand the pool of Latino scholars and leaders and increase the availability of policy-relevant Latino-focused research. IUPLR headquarters, located at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the IUPLR Washington DC Office, located at the University of California Washington Center, work to strengthen the network of centers and to enhance their institutional capacity.

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