

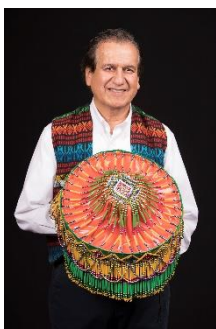


This is the Place: Our Ancestors, Our History, Our Family

GSHA Hybrid Conference & Annual Meeting
August 24-26, 2023, Salt Lake City UT



2023 Conference Speakers' Biographies



Armando Solorzano is an associate professor in Ethnic Studies at the University of Utah. He has extensively published on the history and contributions of Chicana/Hispanic/LatinoXa in the state of Utah. His work emphasizes the role of religion on immigration, education, family formation, and

LatinoXa cultural-religious identity. Dr. Solórzano has produced a series of ethno-photo-history projects that recreates the history of LatinoXa in Utah, the Dignity March of 2006, Latinx Popular Religiosity, and the Day of the Dead in the Beehive State.

Michael Mejia is the author of the novels *TOKYO* and *Forgetfulness*, and his fiction and nonfiction have appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *AGNI*, *DIAGRAM*, *The Collagist*, *Seneca Review*, and *My Mother She Killed Me, My Father He Ate Me*. A recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation, he is editor-in-chief of *Western Humanities Review*, co-



founder editor of Ninebark Press, and a professor of creative writing at the University of Utah. He is founder and President of Hispanic Heritage Project (HHP), a past board member of SHAAR and of the GSHA-Southern California Chapter. For the last 25 years, he has been negotiating with Mexican government and church leaders to digitize their colonial archives to make them accessible to the public on the website panes.info.

Ed A. Muñoz is an Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies in the School for Cultural and Social Transformation at the University of Utah. In general, his research expertise deals with the Latinx experience in the Inter-Rocky Mountain region of the United States. His criminal justice research examines how racialization processes impact criminal justice outcomes for racial/ethnic populations. He is currently examining the effectiveness of Salt Lake Peer Court on youth recidivism. A longer term project is a socio-historical analysis on the construction of Latinidad in the Inter-Rocky Mountain dating from the 16th century and into the 21st century.



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Abelardo de la Cruz is a Nahuatl scholar from Chicontepec, Veracruz. He received his Ph. D. in Anthropology at the University of Albany, State University of New York in 2022. He obtained his master's degree in Humanistic and Educational Research (2015) and a bachelor's degree in law (2012) from the Autonomous University of Zacatecas (UAZ). Over the summer he serves as a Nahuatl instructor at the University of Utah. Mr. de la Cruz is an author of the book chapters titled "The value of custom and Christianity in the discourse of Nahuatl catechists from the huasteca region," and "What motivates Nahuas to practice their religion of el costumbre?" His fields of interest include the teaching of Nahuatl as a second language and the Nahuatl religion led by catechists and prayer specialists known as "motiochihuanih" from northern Veracruz. Last year, he was also a recipient of



the Autonomous University of Zacatecas (UAZ). Over the summer he serves as a Nahuatl instructor at the University of Utah. Mr. de la Cruz is an author of the book chapters titled "The value of custom and Christianity in the discourse of Nahuatl catechists from the huasteca region," and "What motivates Nahuas to practice their religion of el costumbre?" His fields of interest include the teaching of Nahuatl as a second language and the Nahuatl religion led by catechists and prayer specialists known as "motiochihuanih" from northern Veracruz. Last year, he was also a recipient of

the Indigenous Community Research Fellowship in charge of the American Philosophical Society. Currently, he has received the job as an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Rick Hendricks, is a former New Mexico state historian. He received his BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1977 and his PhD from the University of New Mexico in 1985. He also studied



history of Spain in the Americas at the Universidad de Sevilla. Rick is a former editor of the Vargas Project at the University of New Mexico. After the conclusion of the Vargas Project, he worked at New Mexico State University, most notably on the Durango Microfilming Project,

helping to produce and edit a 1,400-page guide to the collection. At NMSU Rick also taught courses in colonial Latin America and Mexican history. He has written extensively on the history of the American Southwest and Mexico. He has written, cowritten, and coedited more than twenty books. Among his recent books are Pueblo Indian Sovereignty: Land and Water in New Mexico and Texas (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2019) and Pablo Abeita: The Life of Times of a Native Statesman of Isleta Pueblo, 1871-1940 (2023) coauthored with his long-time writing partner, Malcolm Ebright.

Beth Taylor is a Certified Genealogist® and holds a bachelor's degree in History from Brigham Young University. Beth is a United States and Canada Research Specialist at the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah where she has worked for more than fifteen years.



Beth has given presentations for the Family History Library, RootsTech, the National Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the BYU

Conference on Genealogy and Family History, among others. Beth specializes in the United States Midwest, DNA, Quakers, and organizing genealogical research.

Peggy Ryskamp first became intrigued with the



contents of a Spanish parish book over thirty years ago and has since worked in repositories ranging from local parishes to provincial and national archives. With her late husband George, she has co-authored two books and mentored students in archives throughout Spain and France. She enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for Spanish-language records in the classroom, and has taught family history classes at the university level and lectured at multiple classes and institutes. Beyond spending time with her nineteen grandchildren, she loves Spanish wildflowers, gardening, and dark chocolate.

Debbie Gurtler, AG® is the Assistant Director of the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. With a BA



in Family History from Brigham Young University, she holds five Accredited Genealogist® credentials for the United States Mid-South, Spain, Mexico, Portugal, and Chile. Fluent in Spanish from living over five years in South

America. A frequent speaker on Hispanic research topics at local and national conferences. She is the mother of three and the grandmother of five.

State Historian **Rob Martínez** is a native New



Mexican born and raised in Albuquerque. A graduate of the University of New Mexico with a B.B.A. in International Business Management, Rob then went on to pursue his interest in New Mexican culture and history at

U.N.M., earning an M.A. in Latin American history, with an emphasis on church, cultural, and social practices of the Spanish Colonial period in New Mexico. This included studying witch beliefs in New Mexico and the Inquisition. Rob worked for 14 years as a research historian for the Sephardic Legacy Project, scouring civil and church archives analyzing documents for a research and publishing project about the Crypto-Jewish phenomenon in New Mexico and the Caribbean. Rob has performed musically throughout New Mexico, and on multiple occasions has

presented music and New Mexican culture at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in Washington, D.C., the NEA's National Heritage Fellowship Awards, and also at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Theresa Martinez completed her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of New Mexico and is currently Associate Professor of Sociology and former



Assistant Vice President for Academic Outreach at the University of Utah. Her teaching and research deal with issues of race, class and gender, deviant behavior, juvenile delinquency, and popular culture. Professor Martinez has won several teaching awards including the

Distinguished University Teaching Award, the College Superior Teaching Award, the Presidential Teaching Scholar Award, and the Calvin S. and JeNeal N. Hatch Prize in Teaching—the highest teaching honor at the University of Utah. In the community, Professor Martinez has won the 1994 YWCA Leadership Award for Education, the 2002 Salt Lake City Mayor's Award for the Humanities, the 2005 Utah Coalition de La Raza Personal Achievement and Community Service Award, the 2006 Renaissance Woman Award, and the 2010 Cesar Chavez Peace and Justice Award.