

Curriculum Vitae

Theresa L. Torres, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of
Latina/Latino Studies & Sociology

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Education

Ph.D.	Catholic University of America	Washington, DC
	Religious Studies with Anthropology and Latina/o Studies	
M.A.	Boston College	Boston, MA
	Theology and Latina/o Religious Education	
B.A.	Benedictine College	Atchison, KS
	Secondary Education	

Areas of Specialization

Chicana/o Studies, Latina/os in United States, Immigration, Race and Ethnic Studies, Religious Studies, Cultural Anthropology, and Gender Studies.

Professional Experience

2014-current	Associate Professor of Latina/Latino Studies and Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri-Kansas City
2006-2013	Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Missouri-Kansas City
2002-2006	Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Benedictine College

Academic Association Memberships

American Academy of Religion (AAR)
Secretary of *La Comunidad* of Latina/o Religious Studies Scholars, 2012-2015

National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS)
Co-Chair of the Chicana Caucus 2014-2016

National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS)
Co-Chair of the Midwest FOCO (Region)

Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambios Social (MALCS is an interdisciplinary society
of Latinas/Chicanas and Native American women in the academy.)

Honors

Manuela Trevino Alanis Professorship, 6/17/2007-7/1/2007
Hispanic Summer Program, Duke University.

Dr. Purcell Award, Sept. 12, 2014. Guadalupe Centers, Inc. Board Service Award.

Current Courses taught at the University of Missouri - Kansas City

Latina Latino Studies Courses:

LLS 201 Introduction to Latina/o Studies
LLS 210 Crossing Boundaries
LLS 348 Latin American Immigrants and Refugees in the US
LLS 400 Feminist Theories
LLS 300 Mentoring Latina/o Youth

Sociology and Anthropology Courses:

Dissertation Research
Soc 418 Feminist Theory
Soc 348 Latin American Immigrants and Refugees in the US
Soc 332 Race and Ethnic Relations
Soc Directed Field Research
Soc 336 Society, Community, & Service: An Internship Course
Soc/Anthro 348 & Black Studies 480 Latin American Immigrants and Refugees
Soc/Anthro 331/5580 Urban Anthropology (students completed service learning
projects, 2011)
Soc 303 Critical Issues in Women and Gender Studies, cluster course, team taught

Soc 300/5500 Society, Sexuality, & Religion

Soc/Anthro103 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Soc/Anthro 300 Mentoring Latina/o Youth

Religious Studies Courses (some were cross-listed with Soc/Anthro)

Rel St 492/5593 Soc 300 Sex and Religion

Rel St 404/5504 Soc/Anthro 300 Soc 5580 Gender and Religion

Rel St 400/500 Soc/Anthro 300 Religion and Politics, team taught

Rel St 584 Sacred Texts and Narratives (graduate student course)

Rel St 440/5567 Myth and Ritual

Rel St 494/5594 Death and the History of Religion, team taught

Research

Book:

The Paradox of Latina Religious Leadership in the Catholic Church: Las Guadalupeanas of Kansas City, New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2013.

Peer Reviewed Articles:

“The Virgin’s Daughters,” *Listening: Journal of Religion and Culture*, Spring 2009, Volume 44, No. 2, 100-112.

“Who is Our Lady of Guadalupe? Guadalupeana Testimonios” *Perspectivas* Published by The Hispanic Theological Initiative (Fall 2009): 50-68.

Essays in peer reviewed edited books:

“What My Abuelita Taught Me About Prayer”. In *Prayers and Rituals from the Ancestors and Beyond: Chicana and Latina Spiritual Expressions* by Lara Medina, Maria Elena Fernandez and Martha Gonzales, editors. Accepted. Publication pending.

“A Latina *Testimonio*: Challenges as an Academic, Issues of Difference, and a Call for Solidarity with White Female Academics.” In *Unlikely Allies: Women of Color and White Women in the Academy*, ed. Karen Dace. New York: Routledge, 2012.

“What Makes Cross-Race Alliances Unlikely.” In *Unlikely Allies: Women of Color and White Women in the Academy*, ed. Karen Dace. New York: Routledge, 2012. Co-authored article.

“*La Quinceañera*: Traditioning and the Social Construction of the Mexican American Female.” In *Futuring Our Past*, ed. Orlando Espín and Gary Macy. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2006.

Encyclopedia Articles:

“Catholic Sex Abuse Scandal and Cover-up,” In *Religion and American Cultures*, ed. Luis Leon and Gary Lademan. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2014.

“*Latina Feminism*.” In *Hispanic American Religious Cultures*, Vol. II, ed. Miguel De La Torre. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2009.

“*Our Lady of Guadalupe*.” In *The Global Dictionary of Theology*, ed. William Dyrness, Veli-Matt Kärkkäinen, Simon Chan, Nzash Lumeya, and Juan Francisco Martinez. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

“*Posadas*.” (Latino Christmas Novena). *The New Catholic Encyclopedia*. Farmington Hill, MI: The Catholic University, 2003.

Book Reviews:

Kristy Nabhan-Warren. *The Virgin of El Barrio: Marian Apparitions, Catholic Evangelizing and Mexican American Activism*. *Theological Studies*, 67: 4 (December 2006): 912-914.

Timothy Matovina and Gary Riebe-Estrella, S.V.D., eds. *Horizons of the Sacred: Mexican American Traditions in U.S. Catholicism*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2002. *The New Theology Review* 17:3 (August 2004): 87-88.

Peter Casarella and Raúl Gómez, S.D.S., eds. *El Cuerpo de Cristo: The Hispanic Presence in the United States Catholic Church*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1998. *The Living Light* 36: 4 (Summer 2000): 81-83.

Alejandro García-Rivera. *The Community of the Beautiful: A Theological Aesthetics*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1999. *Modern Theology* (Spring 2000).

Christian Parker. *Popular Religion and Modernization in Latin America: A Different Logic*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996. *Benedictines* LII: 1 (Summer 1999): 47.

Journal Submission:

“The Chicana, the Mayor, and the White Progressives: A Case Study of Chicana Leadership, Racial Discourse, and White Privilege,” *Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas En Letras y Cambio Social*. Pending.

“The Renewal of Religious Life: A Case Study of an American Benedictine Monastery from 1966 to 1976,” *The Benedictine Review*. In process of revision.

Grants

2017 University of Missouri Research Grant Co-PI granted \$21,184

2017 Robert Wood Johnson Grant PI, 337,491.00 not granted

2016 HRSA Grant with School of Nursing, cultural advisor, \$1,851,852.00 pending

2016 NEA Our Town Grant with El Centro PI not granted \$50,000

2016 UM Intercampus Course Sharing granted (funding in part based on numbers of student participation)

2016 UMKC Excellence Grant Co-PI not granted \$14,822

2016 Missouri Humanities Grant with Guadalupe Centers PI granted \$7,500

2015 Missouri Humanities Grant PI granted \$2,500

2015 Francis Family Foundation Grant for Guadalupe Centers granted PI for Guadalupe Centers granted \$7,500

2015 Missouri Humanities Grant for Guadalupe Centers not granted \$5,000

2015 UMKC Women and Gender Studies Grant granted \$1,000

2012 UMKC On-line Teaching Grant 2012 granted \$2,500

2012 UMKC Diversity Infusion Grant granted \$1,000

2011-2012 FACET UMKC Teaching Grant granted \$1,000

2008-2010 Wabash Center Latino/a Religion Teaching Grant granted \$3,000

2008-2009 New Faculty Teaching Grant, University of Missouri system granted—in kind-participation in UM system teaching conferences

2008-2009 UMKC Women and Gender Studies Grant granted \$1,000

2008-2009 UMKC Faculty Research Grant Summer granted \$4,000

2001-2002 The Hispanic Theological Initiative Dissertation Award, Pew Foundation, granted \$16,000

2000-2001 The Hispanic Theological Initiative Special Mentoring Award, Pew Foundation, granted \$5,000

1999-2000 The Hispanic Theological Initiative Doctoral Award, Pew Foundation, granted \$13,000

1999-2000 Social Science Research Training Fellowship, Office of Research for Religion in Society & Culture at City University of New York, granted \$1,000

Professional Papers and Lectures

2016-2007

2017 “Supporting Latinx High School Academic Success in Kansas City,” Inter-University Program for Latino Research, San Antonio, TX, May 18, 2017.

2016 Caruthers, L., Davis, J., DeSimone, A., Ismail, S., Maher, M., Marx, D., McNeil, H., Panther, L., Nash, K., Patterson Hazley, M., Pecina, U., Peterman, N., Strekalova-Hughes, E., Thomas, R., Torres, T., & Warner, C. (2016, December). “‘Who has writing and snacks to share?’ Writing groups as sites of scholarship and community.” Presented at the UMKC Faculty Research Symposium, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, MO.

2016 “Ethnic Identity and Latina/o Academic Success,” NACCS Conference, Denver, CO, April 8, 2016.

2016 “The Paradox of Latina Religious Leaders” Kansas City Public Library, February 21, 2016.

2015 “Strategies of Resistance: Latina Leaders” NACCS Conference, San Francisco, CA, April 15, 2015.

2015 “The Paradox of Latina Leaders in the Catholic Church and Las Hermanas”, Invited Plenary Lecture, Las Hermanas Symposium, Incarnate Word University, San Antonio, TX, March 21, 2015.

2014 “Latina/os in the Midwest,” Invited Lecture, Stephens College, Columbia, MO, Oct. 16, 2014.

2014 “The Founding of the UMKC Latina Latino Studies Program 2011-2014”, Latina/o Studies International Conference, Chicago, IL, July 19th, 2014.

2014 “Mexicans in the Kansas City Westside: Las Guadalupanas of Kansas City,” The International Conference on Chicano Literature and Latino Studies,” Oviedo, Spain, May 29, 2014.

2014 “The Kansas City Westside: Las Guadalupanas,” The National Association of Chicana Chicano Studies Conference, Salt Lake City, NV, April 11, 2014.

2013 “Interpreting Las Guadalupanas’ Vision: Gloria Anzaldúa’s Pathway to *Concimiento*,” El Mundo Zurdo 2013, An International Conference on the Life and Work of Gloria Anzaldúa San Antonio, TX, Nov. 15, 2013.

2012 “Latina Catholic Spirituality: Liberation or Repression?” American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, November 17, 2012.

2012 “Chicano/Latino Studies Programs in the Midwest,” National Association for Chicana Chicano Studies Conference, Chicago, IL, March 17, 2012. Panel chair and presenter, “The History and Context of Latina Latino Studies at University of Missouri - Kansas City.”

2012 “Bloom’s Taxonomy & Working with Technology: Internships and Service Learning,” National Conference of Black Studies, Atlanta, GA, March 9, 2012. Paper proposal reviewed before acceptance. Paper presentation on initial findings of FaCET research grant project.

2011 “Latino/as in Kansas City: Rethinking Leadership and Research in Immigration Advocacy,” MALCS Institute, California State, Los Angeles, CA, August 6, 2011. Paper proposal reviewed before acceptance. This paper adds to previous research with focus on a local young Latina Dream Act leader who helped mobilize a national civil disobedience action.

2010 “Latino/as in Kansas City, MO: Rethinking Leadership and Research in Immigration Advocacy,” National Meeting of The Society for Applied Anthropology, March 26, 2010, Merida Mexico. Invited to present paper. Paper is on the development of young Latina Leaders based on ethnographic research conducted in Kansas City.

2009 “Latino/as in Kansas City, MO: Building New Strategies for Leadership in the 21st Century,” National Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Dec. 3, 2009, Philadelphia, N.J. Paper proposal reviewed before acceptance. Paper is based on ethnographic research on Latina leaders (3 older women).

2008 “Latina Activists: Intersections of Gender, Religion, and Politics.” National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2008, Chicago. My paper proposal was reviewed before acceptance. Paper based on research on a local Latina leader in the Catholic Church.

2008 “Love the Immigrant as Yourself,” The Sister Wilma Lyle Lecture, Mount Marty College, Yankton, South Dakota, Invited Lecture.

2008 “Futuring Our Past by Remembering Our Roots,” with Jean Pierre Ruiz. Annual Meeting of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians in the United States, Miami, June 2008. Paper proposal reviewed before acceptance. Presentation based on interviews of founding members of the organization.

2007 “Latina Leaders in the Catholic Church: Creating Religious Identity and Meaning in Context of Homophobia.” National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2007, San Diego. Paper proposal reviewed before acceptance. Paper presented preliminary findings of ethnographic research on a gay Latina leader in the Catholic Church.

2007 “The Guadalupanas and the Bishop: A Case of Subversive Agency.” Catholic Theological Society of American, June 2007, Los Angeles. Paper proposal reviewed before acceptance. Paper presentation on the Kansas City Latinas’ leadership and how they prevented the Bishop from closing their church.

1999-2003

2003 “Using Experience and Narrative: Toward the Development of a Theology of Our Lady of Guadalupe.” Annual Meeting of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians in the United States, June 2003, University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio. Respondent: Dr. Terrance Tilley, University of Dayton. Paper proposal reviewed before acceptance.

2002 “Voices from the Margin: Toward a Theology of Reconciliation.” Catholic Theological Society of American: June 2002, New Orleans, Louisiana. Respondent: Dr. Shawn Copeland, Boston College. Paper proposal reviewed before acceptance. A dialogue among African American and Latino theologians on reconciliation.

1999 “Understanding the Historical and Theological Bases of the Guadalupanas.” National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 1999, Boston, MA. Paper proposal reviewed before acceptance.

Dissertation Supervision:

Current:

2012-current Deborah Taylor, Dissertation Chair

2016-current Leah Panther Doctoral Committee Member
2016-current Deanna Marx Doctoral Committee Member
2016-current Marsh Perkins Dissertation Committee Member

Completed:

2014-2017 Allison Katuesz, Dissertation Committee Member
2012-2016 Alex Binder, Dissertation Committee Member
2010-2013 Michelle Abualkhair, Doctoral and Dissertation Committee Member
2010-2011 Ken Mulliken, Dissertation. Committee Member
2009-2010 Jeremy O'Connor, Dissertation Committee Member
2007-2009 Cristie Barron, Dissertation Committee Member
2007-2008 David Harris, Dissertation Committee Member

Master's Thesis Completed:

2010-2012 Andres Lopez, Chair

Service

National

2014-current Chicana Caucus Co-Chair, National Association for Chicana Chicano Studies

2011-2015 Secretary for La Comunidad, (Association of Latina/o Scholars of Religion and Theology), a subcommittee of the American Academy of Religion

2011-2014 Hispanic Theological Initiative, Princeton, N.J.
Mentor for PhD student at Claremont School of Theology

Regional

2014 Midwest FOCO NACCS (National Association for Chicana/Chicano Studies) Meeting, Conference Co-Chair, October 2014, University of Missouri-Kansas City

City

2015 Missouri Historic Society Planning Committee for Hispanic Heritage Month poster series

2010 Anchor of Hope Project, Kansas City. Collaboration with Mayor's Office and three non-profit agencies: United Inner City Services, Operation Breakthrough, and Guadalupe Centers, Inc., August-December 2010.

University

2016 Avanzando Mentor

2016 Cockefair Course "Vatican and Popes"

2015 Avanzando Scholar Mentor

2014-current College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee

2015-current College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee secretary

2007-2012 Presenter and assisted in student recruitment at the annual Hispanic Youth Days on UMKC campus, 2007-2012.

2008-current Agapito Mendoza Scholarship Breakfast for Latino/a Students, Planning Committee for UMKC; first three years I made the request for donations during the breakfast program.

2008-2015 Cesar Chavez Lecture, Planning Committee for UMKC.

Department

2015-current Sociology Diversity Ambassador for Arts & Sciences Diversity Task Force

2013 Public Sociology Projects 82 students and 2 internships courses (summer semester)

2006-2014 Development of community engaged learning projects: service learning projects (62 students), public sociology projects (28 students), and internships (19 students).

2013 Chair of the Service Management Committee

2013 Chair: organized and hosted with the Sociology Club and Service Management Committee Members the welcome to sociology department and sociology club event. Roughly 150 students and 40 recruited potential UMKC students from three area high schools.

2013, 2011 Planned and hosted the Annual Sociology Department Graduate Student Conference March 4, 2011 and March 2013.

2012 Served on the Committee on Committees.

Latina/Latino Studies Program

2017 Hiring Committee for new assistant professor of Latina/Latino Studies

2016 Hiring Committee for Director of Latina/Latino Studies

2016 Chair/Host of the LLS Undergraduate Student Symposium Conference, April

2016. We hosted 12 high school students from Shawnee Mission North at the Undergraduate Student Conference

2015 Assisted 8 students to present their research and submit their applications for scholarship and funding for 2015 NACCS National Conference.

2015 Assisted in program recruitment by hosting a booth at local Argentine fair.

2015 Assisted in program recruitment speaking at Alta Vista High School twice, October.

2015 Assisted in program recruitment speaking at Cristo Rey High School, spring.

Community:

2016-current League of United Latin American Citizens Education Committee

2013-2016 Guadalupe Educational System, Charter School Board, secretary to board.

2007-2013 Guadalupe Center Inc., Board Member; 2010-2013 Secretary to the Board.

2011-13 Kansas City Public Television Advisory Board, member.