

**Leonel (Leo) Guardado, PhD**  
**Assistant Professor, Department of Theology**  
**Fordham University**  
**lguardado@fordham.edu | (510) 325.0035**

---

## EDUCATION

- 2013-2018      **Ph.D. in Theology and Peace Studies**, University of Notre Dame.  
Dissertation title: *Church as Sanctuary: A Preferential Option for the Displaced and Persecuted Poor*. Dissertation board: Sr. Mary Catherine Hilkert, O.P.; Timothy Matovina; Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez, O.P.; John Paul Lederach; Kraig Beyerlein.
- 2006-2008      **Masters of Theological Studies**, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN. Area: History of Christianity.
- 2000-2004      **BA in Religious Studies**, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA.

---

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed articles:

- 2019    “Nonviolence: The Witness of a Church of Mercy” *Expositions* 13.2 (2019) 54–75.
- 2019    “En Compañía de los Pobres, Desplazados y Perseguidos,” *Paginas* 254 (2019): 30-34.
- 2016    "From Liberation Theology to (Liberationist) Peace Studies: Practice, Reflection and the Generation of Scholarship." *The International Journal of Conflict Engagement and Resolution* 4, no. 1 (2016): 13-27.

### Book chapters/essays:

- 2021    “Occupied Churches and Ecclesial Sanctuary: Oscar Romero, War, and the Protection of the Persecuted.” Notre Dame University Press (forthcoming).
- 2020    “Just peace, Just Sanctuary: Immigration and Ecclesial Nonviolence.” In *A Just Peace Ethic: A Primer to Building Sustainable Peace and Breaking Cycles of Violence*. Georgetown University Press (2020): 109-133.

- 2019 Guardado, Leo, Elaine Padilla, and Melissa Pagán. "Latino/A Theology". *Proceedings of the Catholic Theological Society of America* 740 (2019): 150–151.

### **Book Reviews:**

- 2019 Colón-Emeric, Edgardo. *Óscar Romero's Theological Vision: Liberation and the Transfiguration of the Poor*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, October 2018. In *Reading Religion: A Publication of the American Academy of Religion*.
- 2016 Carroll, Daniel. *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2013. In *Perspectivas* 13 (Spring 2016).
- 2015 Hoover, Brett C. *The Shared Parish: Latinos, Anglos, and the Future of US Catholicism*. New York: New York University Press, 2014. In *Review of Religious Research* 57 (2015).

### **Blogs/Public Media:**

- 2018 "Criminal Communion." Criminalizing Latinidad Symposium Essays. *Political Theology Network*. December 10, 2018.
- 2018 "Peeing in Public is never a crime." *Political Theology Network*. March 9, 2018.
- 2017 "Can these bones live? Practicing sanctuary in a valley of bones." *Daily Theology*. March 1, 2017.
- 2016 "Our Lady of Guadalupe: Santuario de los Perseguidos." *Daily Theology*. December 12, 2016.
- 2015 "A divided Salvadoran Church: Can it stand?" *Daily Theology*. May 26, 2015.
- 2015 "On claiming Romero." *Daily Theology*. May 23, 2015.
- 2014 "Pope Francis, Visit the American Lampedusa and Teach Us How to Weep." *Daily Theology*. October 8, 2014.
- 2014 "The Light of Hope." *Daily Theology*. December 24, 2014.
- 2012 "Farmers who pray seven times a day." *National Catholic Reporter*. November 23, 2012.

---

## **TEACHING**

**Courses taught at Fordham University, New York, NY**

- 2020 Faith and Critical Reason  
Christian Mystical Texts
- 2019 Christian Mystical Texts (undergraduate)  
Latinx Theology seminar (PhD)
- 2018 Faith and Critical Reason (undergraduate)

**Courses assisted or co-taught at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN.**

- 2016 *Peacebuilding and Social Change*, masters course, professor David Cortright.
- 2016 *México-U.S. Border Immersion Seminar*, undergraduate course, professor Kraig Beyerlein.
- 2015 *Doing Theology Today*, Ph.D. course, professor Gustavo Gutiérrez, O.P.
- 2015 *Introduction to Peace Studies*, undergraduate course, professor Patrick Regan.
- 2014 *Christian Spirituality and the Transformation of History*, undergraduate course, professor Gustavo Gutiérrez, O.P.
- 2007 *U.S. Latino Catholicism*, undergraduate course, professors Timothy Matovina and Virgilio Elizondo.

**Courses taught at Saint Mary’s College of California, Moraga, CA.**

- 2010 *Catholic Social Tradition & Immigration*, undergraduate seminar
- 2009 *Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers*, undergraduate seminar
- 2008 *Environmental Racism in the Bay Area*, undergraduate seminar

---

**CONFERENCE PAPERS**

- 2021 “Fieldwork in Theology.” Catholic Theological Society of America. Baltimore, MD, Summer 2021. (upcoming).
- 2021 Romero Days 2021: Romero and Catholic Social Teaching conference. Title: “Occupied Churches and Ecclesial Sanctuary: Oscar Romero, War, and the Protection of the Persecuted.” Spring 2021. (upcoming).
- 2020 “Just peace, Just Sanctuary: Immigration and Ecclesial Nonviolence.” Society of Christian Ethics. Washington, DC. January 12, 2020.

- 2019 “Reimagining Community in the Shadow of Empire: Meeting Gandhi and the Zapatistas at the U.S.-Mexico Border.” Catholic Theological Society of America, Pittsburgh, PA, June 6-9, 2019.
- 2019 “In the company of the poor, displaced, and persecuted,” Option for the Poor Conference. University of Notre Dame. March 21-23, 2019.
- 2017 “Sanctuary Churches: Resisting State Violence.” American Academy of Religion. Boston, MA. November 18-21, 2017.
- 2017 “Becoming Sanctuary: A Displaced Church for the Displaced.” Catholic Theological Society of America. Albuquerque, NM. June 8-11, 2017.
- 2016 “Luchando for Survival: Migrant Women and Mujerista Theology.” American Academy of Religion. San Antonio, TX, November 19-22, 2016.
- 2015 “Sanctuary as Accompaniment.” Young Scholars International Peace Conference. University of Notre Dame. November 6-7, 2015.
- 2014 “Integrating peace studies and theology: methodological and interdisciplinary challenges.” Peace and Justice Studies Association. San Diego. October 16-19, 2014.

---

#### **INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, PANELS**

- 2020 “Latinx, Race, and Coloniality.” Presentation to Just Faith group in Tucson, AZ. November 4, 2020.
- 2020 “Saving Creation: The Pope, the Pandemic, and Laudato Si’ at Five.” Center on Religion and Culture. Fordham University. June 25, 2020.
- 2019 “30th anniversary of the martyrs of El Salvador.” Sermon and presentation. Emory University, GA. November 14, 2019.
- 2019 “The Theology of Micah 6:8 in a violent world.” Keynote lecture for the Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action. St. Mary’s College of California. Moraga, CA. November 3, 2019.
- 2019 “The Bible and Immigration.” Lecture at The Church of the Transfiguration. New York, NY. October 27, 2019.
- 2019 “The Practice and Spirituality of Sanctuary.” Invited lecture at St. John’s University, Queens, NY. September 29, 2019.
- 2019 “Voices from the US-Mexico Border: A Forum on Just and Humane Migration.” Lecture at Fordham University. March 17, 2019.

- 2019 Msgr. Neil A. Connolly Lecture Series, “Immigration and Borders: Transnational Violence and the Challenge for the Church.” St. Francis de Sales church. New York, NY. January 31, 2019.
- 2018 “Sanctuary: Accompaniment as resistance.” Center for Social Concerns. University of Notre Dame. February 23, 2018.
- 2017 “Sanctuary Churches.” Invited panelist for public forum on immigration. Church of the Savior, South Bend, IN, March 10, 2017.
- 2017 “Can These Bones Live?” Lecture at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Elkhart, IN. February 28, 2017.
- 2017 “Exploring Sanctuary: Hopes and Realities.” Invited panelist for public forum. Center for Civil and Human Rights, University of Notre Dame. January 18, 2017.
- 2014 “Bridging theology and peace studies.” Invited panelist for university forum on peace studies. University of Mount Union, Alliance, Ohio, March 27, 2014.
- 2014 “The Creed.” Day-long presentation to thirty Spanish-speaking deacons of the diocese. Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN, March 15, 2014.
- 2011 “Religion and community organizing.” Pima Community College, October 11, 2011.

---

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE/TRAINING**

- 2019 Key organizer of international conference on migration and sanctuary held in churches around New York City and in collaboration with local universities and community organizations. John Jay College of Criminal Justice. April 27-29, 2019.
- 2017 Organized international gathering to discuss the 1968 Medellin documents with Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez, O.P. Lima, Peru. August 2-9, 2017.
- 2016 Convened a group of theology professors from across the country to discuss pedagogy and liberation theology with Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez, O.P. South Bend, IN. September 30-October 2, 2016.
- 2015 “Community Engagement Faculty Institute.” Completed faculty training for community based teaching and research. University of Notre Dame. May 27-29, 2015.
- 2014 “International Peace and Security Institute.” Practiced skills in conflict prevention, resolution, and reconciliation with internationally renowned scholars, heads of state, UN officials, and diplomatic negotiators. Bologna, Italy. July-August, 2014.

- 2010-2012 Director of Social Ministry at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Tucson, Arizona. Responsible for integrating Catholic Social Teaching into all aspects of the parish community. Taught and facilitated Just Faith curriculum. Gave the following public lectures: “A History of the USCCB & Immigration: 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the present”; “Faith & Politics in El Salvador”; “The Evolution of Catholic Social Teaching since 1891”; “Prisons, Prisoners, & Human Dignity”; “Pilgrimage: The Christian Journey & El Camino de Santiago.”
- 2010-2012 Member of Bishop Gerald Kicanas’ Diocesan Pastoral Council; Member of Diocese Without Borders, a collaborative program of the Diocese of Phoenix, Diocese of Tucson, and the Diocese of Hermosillo, Mexico, to develop strategic responses to immigrant needs.
- 2011-2012 Occasional guest preacher at Southside Presbyterian Church, Tucson, Arizona.
- 2010-2012 Advisory Board member for Sacred Stones Project, a multimillion dollar initiative at the Abbey of New Clairvaux, Vina, CA.
- 2008-2010 Assistant Director of Justice Education at the Mission and Ministry Center, Saint Mary’s College of California, Moraga, CA.
- 2004-2005 Campus Minister at Bishop Loughlin High School, Brooklyn, NY.

---

## **FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS**

- 2017-2018 Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship.  
 2017-2018 Hispanic Theological Initiative Dissertation Fellowship.  
 2015-2017 Louisville Institute Doctoral Fellowship.  
 2014 Graduate School Professional Development Award, University of Notre Dame.  
 2014 Kellogg Institute Professionalization Grant, University of Notre Dame.  
 2013-2018 Joseph L. Gaia Distinguished Fellowship in Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame.  
 2006 Theology Summer Research Fellowship, University of Notre Dame.  
 2004 John XXIII award for excellence in Religious Studies, Saint Mary’s College of California

---

## **MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA)
- Association of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS)

- Society of Christian Ethics (SCE)
- American Academy of Religion (AAR)
- Latin American Studies Association (LASA)