



HISPANIC  
2021–  
THEOLOGICAL  
2022  
INITIATIVE





# NURTURING AND CULTIVATING LATINXS TO SERVE IN A CHANGING ACADEMY, CHURCH, AND WORLD

## HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE 2021-2022



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## OUR MISSION

The Hispanic Theological Initiative's (HTI) mission is cultivating Latinx PhDs for leadership positions in the academy, the church, and the world. With the support of the 24 Consortium member institutions, the mission and vision of HTI revolve around three major goals:

1. Increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latinx PhD students across the nation by uniting and leveraging institutional resources (human, financial, and infrastructural).
2. Increase the presence of Latinx leaders and faculty—especially, tenured faculty in seminaries, schools of theology, and universities.
3. Provide a forum for the exchange of information, ideas, and best practices to engage the contributions of Latinx faculty and students in theological and religious education.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



How do you celebrate a silver jubilee in the midst of an ongoing worldwide pandemic? At HTI, we are prevailing on our 25th year the *en conjunto* way: with hope, imagination, and creativity. And it is the same *en conjunto* way that has allowed our HTI community—scholars; member schools; partners; editors; mentors; faculty; the *Perspectivas* editorial board; **Open Plaza** contributors, faculty-led team and production team; and all HTI committees—to maintain a high level of programming and offerings.

With no time to waste, the HTI staff, working with our many partners, reached out to the HTI community via Zoom. We worked to stay connected and to sustain one another, including performing quarterly check-ins with HTI Scholars to learn about their challenges and address their most pressing needs. With the support of our Curriculum Review Committee and Princeton Seminary's IT Department, HTI was able to offer the Professional Development Conference online using Brightspace. HTI added online Writers Weeks and several Early Career Orientation sessions. HTI also partnered with the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) in an effort to streamline the dissertation fellowship application process, eliminating redundancy for applicants as well as for advisors and faculty writing recommendations. The mentoring program, which is an integral part of the Scholars' enrollment, has continued with virtual visits and monthly communications. On December 10th, HTI was able to conduct its traditional annual AAR/SBL conference reception virtually, with more than 130 individuals in attendance. Additionally, HTI met via Zoom with more than 50 graduates. These two activities fueled excitement into the 25th anniversary celebrations.

HTI has maintained a high graduation rate, with ten HTI scholars defending their dissertation in the first half of 2021. All recent graduates are engaged in teaching and/or contributing in the field of theological and religious education as HTI counts **147 graduates!** Furthermore, member schools have enrolled **61 students** for the 2021–2022 academic year.

This brochure features images of the many lively Zoom calls conducted throughout the year, as well as testimonials from the HTI community. We encourage you to take a moment to read the bios of your 2021–2022 Scholars and to learn about the achievements of the **147 graduates** listed as they continue to move forward.

Although we face an uncertain future, HTI remains resilient and hopeful, knowing that what we do is more imperative than ever. We are delighted to share that HTI received a grant of **\$100,000 from Trinity Wall Street for the creation of hybrid spaces** to support the advancement of Latinx leaders in the church, the academy, and the world. Additionally, as part of the 25th-anniversary celebrations, **HTI member schools are sponsoring lectures** that engage topics of today and tomorrow. Lastly, to conclude HTI's silver jubilee, a team of HTI graduates is planning a 25th Celebration for November 19, 2021, during the AAR/SBL meeting in San Antonio, TX (stay tuned for details).

As we continue to celebrate 25 years, we ask you to keep HTI's mission in your hopes and prayers, and to faithfully consider a financial contribution so that, *en conjunto*, we may keep HTI's important mission alive and thriving.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Rodríguez".

Joanne Rodríguez



# HTI STORY

Two decades prior to HTI's inception, the Fund for Theological Education (FTE), now the Forum for Theological Exploration, implemented two programs that supported 198 Hispanic students at the master's-level for ministry and the doctorate level. In 1986, The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) provided FTE with a planning grant for Dr. Justo L. González along with an advisory team to conduct a study titled, "The Theological Education of Hispanics," which was published in 1988. The study was pivotal for Pew's philanthropic strategy in supporting Hispanic Americans in religious and theological education.

After a Pew study conducted by Dr. Luis Rivera-Pagán and Dr. Rosendo Urrabazo in 1994, Pew decided to withdraw its funding for Hispanic students, yet Dr. Joel Carpenter and the Rev. Danny Cortes, then Pew director and program officer of religion programs, were committed to establishing a new program to develop leaders for the church and the academic community.

Using a planning grant to conduct a new needs assessment study and design process, they hired Dr. Edwin Hernández to lay the groundwork for the Pew Hispanic Scholarship Study, and with the support of the advisory team including Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, Dr. Justo L. González, Dr. Allan Figueroa-Deck, Dr. David Maldonado, Dr. Olga Villaparra, Dr. Ana María Pineda, and Ms. Sarita Brown, they wrote the study titled, "The Future of Hispanics Graduate Theological Education." In 1995, Hernández submitted to Pew a grant proposal for the HTI. HTI was launched at Emory University under the directorship of Dr. Justo L. González and Dr. Daisy Machado with a \$3.5 million grant, which was renewed in 2001, and a final grant in 2005 for \$1.8 million. In the fall of 1996, HTI awarded its first fellowships.

In 1999, HTI was relocated to Princeton Theological Seminary and Dr. Zaida Maldonado Pérez became its new director. During Pérez's tenure, she introduced the HTI Book Prize and Latinas in Theology. From 2002 to present, the Rev. Joanne Rodríguez, executive director, has worked collaboratively with a variety of advisors, mentors, and editors to develop and maintain the unprecedented completion rate of 93% with an average time to degree of 5.5 years.

In 2003, HTI received an \$888,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., and in 2007, 17 PhD-granting institutions launched the HTI Consortium to expand the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latinx PhD students. Today the Consortium stands at 24 members. In 2010, HTI was awarded the Examples of *Excelencia* award at the graduate-level from ¡Excelencia in Education!, catapulting the HTI vision and model into the larger landscape of education in the United States. Since then, HTI is known as the "411 Hub" for Latinx theological and religious resources, and is relied upon by presidents, deans, faculty, and students for resources and networks. In 2011, HTI received a \$400,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to provide fellowships to post-comprehensive examination/dissertation HTI scholars.

HTI celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2016 with a corporate gift of \$100,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and a \$1.5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., which provides ten \$25,000 dissertation fellowships to students yearly for five years.

In November 2017, HTI received \$475,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation to widen and enhance the audience of HTI's *Perspectivas* peer-reviewed bilingual journal by building Open Plaza, a platform to address key Latinx social issues.

Also in 2017, HTI received a planning grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. titled, "Synergies to Nurture, Improve, and Advance Hispanic Religious and Theological Leaders/Scholars." This grant supported three new initiatives: First, a gathering of Higher Education Denominational Leaders to discuss opportunities and challenges in serving Hispanic leaders' educational goals; second, a Mentoring Pilot Program for First Call to nurture and address the needs of HTI graduates who are in their first position; and third, a Mentoring Internship Program for current HTI Scholars to explore diverse ways in which they can utilize their doctoral degrees to serve in diverse contexts. Each of the new initiatives were carried out in 2018, and their success led to HTI receiving a \$1.4 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., in March 2019. This grant allows HTI to continue the Mentoring Program for First Call and the Mentoring Internship Program. With this grant, HTI will also develop a Latinas in Theology Leadership Program to create opportunities for Latina scholars to apply for leadership positions in theological and religious education institutions and will strengthen HTI's evaluation capacity allowing it to measure its more than 20 years of Mentoring and Professional Development Curriculum.

During the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature annual meetings in November 2019, HTI launched Open Plaza ([htiopenplaza.org](http://htiopenplaza.org)), a virtual gathering space to amplify Latinx voices in the global public space through blogs, podcasts, and HTI Video Talks. Open Plaza is uniquely designed for Latinx intellectuals in religion and theology to connect with a broader audience and exchange resources and ideas that contribute to advancing the well-being of Latinx communities and society at large.

In 2020, HTI received a \$1.6 million grant, which allows HTI to continue providing ten \$25,000 dissertation fellowships to students yearly for four years. And in 2021, Trinity Wall Street granted HTI \$100,000 to digitize the Professional Development Curriculum for Latinx Faith Leaders and Scholars.

HTI holds Affiliate Member Status with the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

# HTI AT A GLANCE

## WHO ARE HTI SCHOLARS?



64% Male  
36% Female



2 deans  
4 presidents  
In higher education



15 Denominations  
30% Ordained



101 Full-time educators  
45 Leaders in administration, research, and ministry

## WHAT HAS HTI ACHIEVED?



48 master's &  
147 doctoral  
students supported

93% of HTI students earn  
their graduate degrees  
in an average of 5.5 years

Compared to 31% retention rate  
and 9.3 years. Source: Council of Graduate  
Schools PhD Completion Project

40% are tenured  
33% are on tenured track



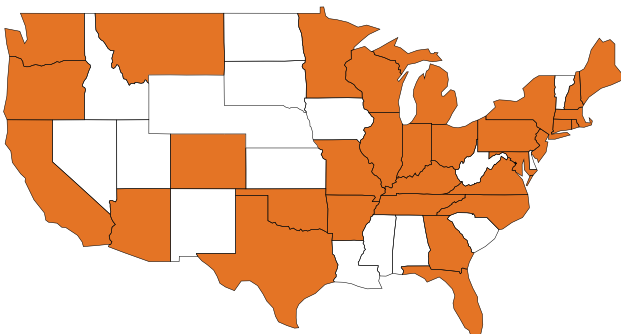
145+ Published  
books by  
62 HTI scholars

Assisted 10  
post-doctoral scholars in  
the writing of their books  
(1997 to 2001)

Honored 12  
Book Prize winners

## WHERE ARE HTI GRADUATES NOW?

3 continents & 5 countries



29 States and Puerto Rico



Canada  
Costa Rica  
Mexico  
Taiwan

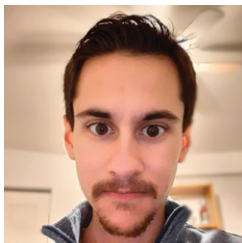
- Academic institutions
- Denominations
- Congregations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Media/publishing organizations
- Government agencies
- Health organizations
- Professional/educational organizations



# HTI SCHOLARS 2021-2022

## First-Year Doctoral Scholars

These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2021-2022 academic year.



### Matthew Arakaky

AB, University of Virginia / MDiv, Princeton Theological Seminary / AM, The University of Chicago / PhD, Duke University (present)

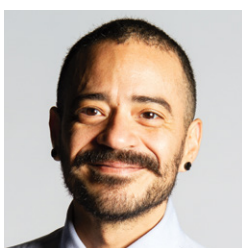
Matthew was born in Arlington, Virginia to a Bolivian-Japanese father and a German-Italian mother. As a child, he lived in Bolivia for three years—an experience that shaped and solidified his own Hispanic identity. At Princeton Seminary, he was the recipient of the Princeton Seminary Fellowship, the Henry Snyder Gehman Award in Old Testament, and the Senior Fellowship in Old Testament. His research languages include German, French, Spanish, Hebrew (classical, historical, modern), Koine Greek, Aramaic (various dialects), Akkadian, and Ugaritic. His interests lie in the literary, theological, and historical approaches to the Hebrew Bible, and as an aspiring minister, he especially hopes to bring the local church into theological and academic conversations.



### Austin Mathew Cruz

BA, University of St. Thomas (Houston) / MTS, University of Notre Dame / PhD, University of Notre Dame (present)

Austin was born in Houston, Texas to Mexican-American parents, both of whose families have lived in Texas since the beginning of the 20th century. Initially formed in a predominantly Anglo, suburban parish, Austin's experiences and formal study of theology led him to a new appreciation for his Hispanic Catholic faith as a unique and personal path to encountering God. Austin's research interests include the rediscovery of the medieval genre of hagiography (writings of the lives of the saints) as a locus theologicus, theological anthropology, and Latinx studies. He hopes that examining the hagiographical and catechetical sources of Colonial Spain will help offer a greater self-understanding to Latinx Christians and appreciation for their faith. Austin hopes to serve both the Church and academia by expanding access to theological education in underserved communities.



### Damien Domenack

AA, Vancouver Film School, Vancouver, BC / MDiv, Vanderbilt Divinity School / ThM, Vanderbilt Divinity School / PhD, Drew University (present)

Damien is a Peruvian immigrant raised in Southern California. He is a Santero Priest and a candidate for ordination in the Unitarian Universalist tradition whose ministry centers Queer, Transgender, Black and Brown immigrant communities of which he is a part of. The formative Evangelical immigrant communities of his childhood cultivated his commitment to radical hospitality. Damien is a longtime hospitality professional, prison abolitionist, and founding member of Audre Lorde Project's TransJustice. His research focuses on critically investigating the ways in which Afro-diasporic spirituality, and Christianity in particular, encounter the identity and community-shaping forces of the flesh for LGBTQI+—especially transgender and non-binary—persons of color. Damien approaches the work of theology and social ethics by weaving interdisciplinary Black Atlantic religion work with decolonial and liberative theology, with its focus on lived religion as a site from which to theologize and investigate how religion is lived in community. His work aims to shift and illuminate the ways memory, story, and relationality contour religious identities.





### Jacob Leal

BA, Vanguard University of Southern California / MTS, Duke Divinity School / PhD, Boston University (present)

Jacob is a Mexican-American Texas native whose research is influenced by his *abuela's* stories of visitations from ancestors. After realizing the uniqueness of ancestral veneration to the Mexican experience, he quickly grew passionate about specializing in the metaphysical presence of the dead in the everyday lives of his people. Jacob will use biblical passages such as Matthew 17:1-13—where Christ's disciples interact with their ancestors Elijah and Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration—and read them alongside Mexican ideas of the dead prominent in events such as *Día de Muertos*. By doing this, he hopes to liberate his *abuela's* understanding of the ancestor from European theologies which deem interactions with the dead as taboo. His passion for theological research and training continues to grow the more he realizes the importance of inclusive academic work which creates opportunities for Latinxs, like his *abuela*, to tell their stories. He strives to be a professor whose office is a safe space for students in marginalized groups, especially those within the Latinx community.



### Robert Vincent Martínez

BA, Howard Payne University / MDiv, George W. Truett Theological Seminary - Baylor University / PhD, Baylor University (present)

Robert "Bobby" Martínez was born in Hampton, Virginia to a Mexican immigrant mother and Mexican-American father. A second-generation Latino, Bobby initially felt called into ministry like his grandfather before him, Rev. Vicente Garcia-Garcia. However, upon graduating from Howard Payne University, and later George W. Truett Theological Seminary, he would sense a calling into the academy as he continued to wrestle with questions of identity, migration, and the legacy of colonialism in Latin America. As a student of World Christianity, his research interests are interdisciplinary and lie at the intersection of Latin American Missions and Church Histories, Theologies, and Anthropology (Postcolonial Studies). With aspirations of working within and along the borderlands between the Church and the academy, Bobby finds hope in the possibility of his research and professional life one day providing support to the next generation of *Latinxs en la lucha*.



### Emanuel Padilla

BA, Moody Bible Institute / MA, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School / PhD, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (present)

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Emanuel was acutely aware of his exile from Puerto Rico from an early age. He grew an awareness of his double *mestizaje* as one who was neither completely from the United States or the Island. This experience as part of the Puerto Rican diaspora is central to Emanuel's research and ministry interests. He is pursuing doctoral studies to construct a theology of *mestizaje* that recaptures the history of colonization, reshapes conceptions of *metiza/o* identity, and informs ecclesial pursuits of justice. Emanuel's desire is to serve the Church through non-traditional educational ministries. He does this as founder and president of World Outspoken and co-host of the *Mestizo* Podcast.



### **Kenia Vanessa Rodriguez**

BS, American University / JD, Washington College of Law – American University / MDiv, Wesley Theological Seminary / PhD, Drew University (present)

Vanessa was born in La Paz, Bolivia and migrated to the United States with her family at the age of three. She was then raised in the DC metropolitan area. After a few years of practicing immigration law in the area of deportation defense within the Latinx community, Vanessa was baptized within a US protestant church which propelled her study on the role of religion and Christianity concerning structures of oppression within the US Protestant Church for the Latina and her community using a Mujerista critique with a focus on genuine and authentic reconciliation. Vanessa has a passion to empower and affirm the Latina and her community so that God's transformative work can be witnessed.



### **Julieta Sánchez**

BS, St. Mary's University / MA, St. Mary's University / PhD, Oblate School of Theology (present)

Julieta was born in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico and at a young age moved to El Paso, TX with her family. She later moved to San Antonio, TX for her undergraduate studies and through her involvement in campus ministry and a liberal arts education discovered a passion for theology. Julieta began working as a campus minister for St. Mary's University and journeyed with college students in their understanding of faith and spirituality. She coordinated campus liturgies and organized faith formation initiatives for young adults seeking to fulfill their sacraments in the Catholic Church. As a PhD student, Julieta is eager to study how spirituality plays a role in human behavior, religious practice, and societal engagement. Her research interests will focus on how theology and spirituality influence ethical decisions within medical practice.



### **KMarie Tejeda**

AA, Hostos Community College / BA, Hunter College / MDiv, Harvard Divinity School / STM, Boston University / PhD, Boston University (present)

KMarie was born and raised in the Dominican Republic and immigrated to the United States in her early twenties. Her research is centered on exploring the role and manifestation of the Holy Spirit/spirits in Early Christian communities, why ecstatic religions develop during apocalyptic times, and how historical events and people's experiences within a community stimulate ecstatic experiences like prophecy, dreams, and visions. For her, the academic study of the Holy Spirit and spirits in antiquity is a topic that has not been explored enough because of the subjective nature that studying spirits represents. Nonetheless, she believes that academic study does not undermine such experiences, and it shows deep respect for the diversity of the spiritual experience.

## Second-Year Doctoral Scholars

These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2021–2022 academic year.



### Danny Ballon

BA, University of Southern California / JD, University of Southern California / MTS, Harvard Divinity School / PhD, Emory University (present)

The grandson of agricultural workers and day laborers, Danny was born and raised in San Diego, California, along the San Ysidro/Tijuana border, where his dad pastored an Apostolic church. As a scholar, Danny is interested in studying the relationship between religion and social change, and he pursues his research questions primarily through a historical lens. In his doctoral studies, Danny will conduct a historical study of black and brown queer Pentecostals and Evangelicals in the United States in the twentieth century, drawing connections from these historical movements and actors to current queer religious movements, including queer transnational religious movements in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Prior to pursuing a career in academia, Danny practiced law at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and at a corporate law firm in Los Angeles.



### Guilherme Brasil de Souza

BA, Southern Adventist University / MAR, Yale Divinity School / PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary (present)

Guilherme was born in Brazil and at an early age moved to the United States and later returned to the state of Bahia in Brazil to attend middle school and high school. After that, Guilherme returned to the United States to pursue undergraduate and graduate studies. Guilherme is passionate about learning about different cultures and is interested in the intersections of religion, politics, and human rights. He loves to learn different languages and engage in interfaith dialogues with anyone that has questions about his Seventh-day Adventist beliefs.



### Carlos Garcia

BA, Columbia University / MTS, University of Notre Dame, / PhD, University of Notre Dame (present)

Carlos was born in Colombia and lived in Switzerland, Singapore, and England before arriving in the United States. After earning a BA in economics from Columbia University, Carlos served as a campus missionary with the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) in California. He spent two years leading bible studies and working with college students at the University of Southern California, and 2 years at the University of Southern California. While on campus, Carlos developed a strong passion for Scripture while also perceiving a need for teachers for young generations who are thirsting to know the Bible. He is currently pursuing a PhD at Notre Dame in order to bridge his passion and this need.



### Stephanie Valeska Lopez Griswold

BA, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee / MA, San Diego State University / PhD, Claremont Graduate University (present)

Stephanie is a historian of religion, pursuing an "interfield" PhD. She has spent her first two years at CGU as a research assistant and president of the Mormon Studies Student Association. Being a first-generation college graduate of Mexican and Nicaraguan descent, Stephanie plans to move her work on new religious movements in the United States to Latin America and focus on Latin American engagement with new or alternative religions. Her previous research has focused on Fundamentalist Mormonism in the southwestern United States which has led her to find instances of Fundamentalist Mormonism in Mexico that do not focus on white Mormon colonies but rather indigenous and mestizo communities. Aside from her scholarly work in history and religion, Stephanie also works in archives and museums. She hopes to continue doing preservation and public-facing work as she progresses in her career.





### **Evelmyn Ivens**

BA, California State University, Los Angeles / MATS, North Park Theological Seminary / PhD, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (present)

Evelmyn was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States as a teenager. As a 1.5 generation immigrant, she lives in a constant tension of in-between spaces. She is interested in exploring simple cultural practices through a theological framework. Evelmyn's research interests include contextual theologies, particularly Latinx theologies, the interconnection between civic engagement, faith and justice, and intercultural spirituality. Evelmyn has a passion for teaching, learning, and addressing the lack of access to theological education for underrepresented groups.



### **Sarah Kothe**

BA, Boston College / MTS, Candler School of Theology, Emory University / PhD, Laney Graduate School, Emory University (present)

Sarah's research is centered on questions at the intersection of technology, theological anthropology, and biomedical ethics. Her interest in these topics began as an undergraduate major in biology and theology. After working as a research assistant studying the effects of mindfulness meditation on primary school teachers, Sarah entered a master's program focused on exploring how theology and theological practices can impact human health, particularly at the end of life. As a PhD student, Sarah incorporates ethnography into her work to further examine how theology is shaped and applied by individuals making medical decisions. She hopes that her research will help to create a more equitable healthcare system and facilitate better communication between healthcare providers and patients.



### **Daniel Montañez**

BBA, St. Mary's University / MDiv, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary / STM, Boston University / PhD, Boston University (present)

Daniel was born in Visalia, California to a Mexican mother and a Puerto Rican father. After learning the importance of his own migration story as a second-generation Latino, he became interested in discovering God's heart for the migrant. This influenced his research interests, which include theology, ethics, migration studies, and Latinx studies. His research focuses on constructing a biblical social ethic that can positively and proactively respond to the migration crisis. Daniel hopes to serve at the intersection of academia, the church, and the public square to begin to change the narrative of migration within American evangelicalism by building bridges of hope and reconciliation.



### **Kerwin Rodríguez**

BA, Moody Bible Institute / MDiv, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School / PhD, George W. Truett Seminary, Baylor University (present)

Kerwin was born in New York City to Dominican immigrants. He is passionate about preaching and teaching others to preach. Kerwin is pursuing doctoral studies because of his interest in the Latinx preaching tradition, and is specifically interested in Dominican preaching during the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo, and Christian preaching among the Dominican diaspora in the United States.



### Christian Sánchez

BA, Southwestern Assemblies of God University / MPhil, The University of St. Andrews / PhD, Baylor University (present)

Christian owes his faith and vocation to the Hispanic-Pentecostal movement that spread to San Benito, Nuevo León, Mexico which enthralled the Sánchez family. His first experiences with God occurred in the house church services practiced at his *tía's* house while listening to both Scripture's and his family's testimonies about God. These experiences galvanized his interest to pursue his study of the exegesis and praxis of Christianity's origins. At Baylor University, Christian is researching the logic of temple and ritual imagery used in the book of Revelation—namely how John's discourse community understood the cultic realities taking place in the heavens as pivotal for the life of their communities and even explanatory for contemporary events. As an aspiring biblical scholar, he hopes to contribute to the academic conversation as well as promote eclectic readings of Scripture within faith communities.



### Karla Stevenson

BA, Azusa Pacific University / MDiv, Fuller Theological Seminary / PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary (present)

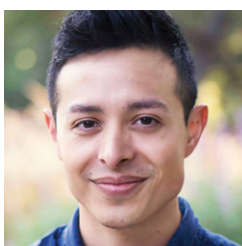
Raised in Los Angeles, Karla is the daughter of a Salvadoran mother and Armenian father. She is an ordained pastor and church planter passionate about the intersection of theology and practice and how together they impact and have practical implications on the lives of those inside and outside the church. She is interested in a decolonized theology and understanding of the reading of Scripture and ministry. Karla seeks to reimagine how the church develops its hermeneutical practice through Latinx theology, particularly *mujerista*, liberation, Latinx, and decolonization studies.



### Noemi Vega Quiñones

BA, California State University, Fresno / MA, Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary/ PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Noemi was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States when she was five. Her undergraduate research in Mexican American mental health prevalence introduced the paucity of access to appropriate health care for ethnic communities. Noemi's master's research focused on utilizing covenant epistemology and an *evangélica* theology of Emmanuel to begin deconstructing racialized theologies. She is the recipient of the Thesis of the Year award from Fresno Pacific University and the Mustang Fellowship from Southern Methodist University. Noemi's research interests include socio theological racial formation, pneumatology, womanist and *mujerista* theologies, covenant epistemology, Mexican indigenous epistemologies, and christology. Noemi hopes to contribute to anti-racialization work within the Christian church and *en conjunto* with her communities to explore new images of Christ through healing epistemologies.



### René Velarde

BS, Indiana Wesleyan University / MA, Fuller Theological Seminary / PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary (present)

René is from the agricultural town of Salinas, in central California, and comes from a Mexican family that knows well the world of laboring in agricultural fields in pursuit of a better life. His parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico and raised René to know a loving God who calls his people into love. Before entering the world of academia, René spent 15 years in local evangelical churches as a worship pastor. This formation gave René up-close encounters of American church realities and convinced him of the need for on-going critical investigation, reflection, and dialogue regarding issues of Christianity, and race and ethnicity. His research interests focus on paths towards cultivating an intersectional *mestizaje* within local church communities.



### David Zamora

BA, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá Colombia / GradCert, Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá Colombia / MDiv, Trinity School for Ministry / PhD, Wheaton College (present)

David was born and raised in Colombia and has participated in a variety of pastoral, missional, and academic experiences from various Christian traditions (as variegated as Pentecostalism, Presbyterianism, and Anglicanism). Through the study of the Old Testament, particularly by attending to the rhetorical aspects of its composition, David aspires to discover more accurate depictions of God's self-revelation in Scripture. He considers that his contributions could aid the church to fulfill her calling as an ambassador of the eternal kingdom. David is committed to helping in the spiritual and academic formation of church leaders, especially from Spanish-speaking countries, who want to invest their lives in the understanding, practice, and proclamation of the Gospel. Accordingly, since 2018, he has been the facilitator of the Spanish Academic Program at Trinity School for Ministry.

## Comprehensive Exam-Year Scholars

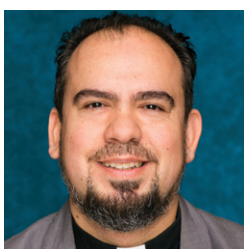
These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2021–2022 academic year.



### Gonzalo R. Alers

BA, Ana G. Méndez University, Puerto Rico / MDiv, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico / STM, Drew University / PhD, Drew University (present)

Gonzalo is a native of Puerto Rico and is endorsed for pastoral ministry with the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico, affiliated to the American Baptist Churches USA. Gonzalo's academic interests are based on the critical study of the New Testament, the history of Early Christianity and the Greek language—all this conducive to an educational ministry at graduate level institutions and within its denomination. Some of the areas that he focuses on are postcolonial theories applied to Puerto Rico's political and social context, a new reading of the Bible centered on his "*Puertorriqueñidad*", and ethics as a hermeneutical tool for integral liberation. The goal is to provoke possible changes and to promote a general awareness of the social-political situations in a territory marginalized by more than five centuries of foreign domination.



### Francisco J. García, Jr.

BA, University of California Los Angeles / MA in Urban Planning, University of California Los Angeles / MA in Latin American Studies, University of California Los Angeles / MDiv, Claremont School of Theology / PhD, Vanderbilt University (present)

Francisco is a PhD Student in Theological Studies, Ethics and Action at Vanderbilt University in the Graduate Department of Religion, and a Graduate Research Fellow at the Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice at Vanderbilt Divinity School. He also serves part-time as an Assistant Chaplain at St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel in Nashville. As an Episcopal priest, labor and community organizer, Francisco's work over the last ten years has centered around congregation-based ministry and interfaith community organizing around immigrant rights, housing rights, and racial and economic justice issues in greater Los Angeles. His doctoral research project entails developing theologies and ecclesiologies rooted in the organizing, social movement, and liberative faith traditions, informed by his own Chicano/Latin@/x background, in order to better equip communities of faith to address the pressing justice issues of our time.



### Stacy Guinto-Salinas

BA, Pfeiffer University / MDiv, Duke Divinity School / PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary (present)

Stacy is a Mexican immigrant raised in the southeastern United States. Upon arriving in the United States, Stacy and her family found refuge in a local immigrant church where her passion for theology began. She is interested in exploring the endurance, or faith, of undocumented immigrant women from the site of infliction—the United States-Mexico border—to the joy they find surviving and thriving in an anti-immigrant, patriarchal society. Stacy explores these questions through liberation theologies, Black and Latinx studies, and decolonial theory. Stacy is also a candidate for ordination in the United Methodist Church and hopes to highlight the faith and work of immigrant women and to assist in the development and education of Latinx clergy.

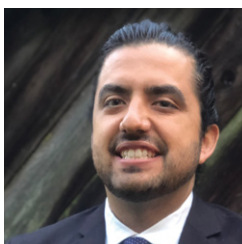




### **Joshua Méndez**

BA, Pacific Union College / MA, Claremont School of Theology / PhD, Claremont Graduate University (present)

The son of Puerto Rican and Chilean parents, Joshua grew up in Puerto Rico and moved to the United States at eight years old. As an interdisciplinary scholar, Joshua's research interrogates the relationship between the colonial encounter, the emergence of the capitalist mode of production, and the processes of racial formation facilitated by the secularization of theological concepts.



### **Geoffrey Nelson-Blake**

BA, La Sierra University / MDiv, Andrews University / PhD, Graduate Theological Union (present)

Geoffrey is a Mexican-American California native whose academic interests were formed and transformed by his time as a practitioner, both as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and faith-based community organizer. Specializing in missiology and public theology, he aims to employ an ethnographic methodology in researching the missiological self-understanding of minoritized US faith communities expressing socio-religious commitments in the public sphere. He aspires to teach courses related to mission, religion, and society.



### **Eddie A. Rosa Fuentes**

BS, Universidad de Puerto Rico in Humacao / MDiv, McCormick Theological Seminary / ThM, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago / PhD, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (present)

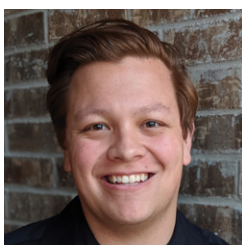
Eddie is a queer Puerto Rican embodied story working on a re-imagination of the "human" through a decolonial method. Their life experience and embodiment move them to engage with many of the concepts that are taken for granted in theology and look for ways to re-imagine them fugitively. They move in an interdisciplinary space and engage with theories like queer, decolonial, Caribbean, and performance. Eddie's desire is to provide spaces for possibilities that invite people in our churches and community to come with their whole stories and embodiments.



### **Elyssa Salinas-Lazarski**

BA, Valparaiso University / MDiv, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago / PhD, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (present)

Elyssa believes that her theology must touch her body; therefore, her scholarship encompasses her experience as a Mexican-American and as a woman. She is passionate about making the church a safe space for each and everybody because each body is a beloved creation of God, and not a shell of shame. Utilizing her own body as a crux, her research embraces sex and body-positive theology in order to combat a culture of disgrace. Elyssa employs teaching and poetry to connect to her audience at a poetry slam or in a classroom.



### **Izak Santana**

BA, Hardin-Simmons University / MDiv, Harvard Divinity School / PhD, The University of Chicago Divinity School (present)

Izak, a Native-American raised in a Mexican-Hispanic culture that cherished and emphasized the human connection with the Divine, grew up experiencing the phenomenon of "Scripture" as a constant event amongst family and friends. After encountering and suffering far more limiting ideas of how God "speaks" to humans, Izak seeks to develop new conceptions of Christian scripturality and revelation within the field of constructive theology, keeping in close conversation with classic theologies, theologies of liberation, philosophy, biblical studies, history, and comparative religious scripturalities (specifically, Buddhist and Hindu), that honor and empower a global and longstanding truth of the Divine that occurs every single day: God can speak to all of us through everything.



### **Matthew Vega**

BA, Wheaton College / MA, The University of Chicago / PhD, The University of Chicago (present)

Matthew decided to pursue doctoral studies because of his interest in how faith commitments shape and motivate interpersonal relationships and political engagement. A native of Chicago, Matthew is interested in the expressions of solidarity between faith communities – how they share and exchange ideas, and draw upon their common faith as a resource for survival and/or struggle. His goal upon graduation is to teach at the university level to prepare ministers, scholars, activists, public officials, and others to enter the workplace with fresh vision and passion.



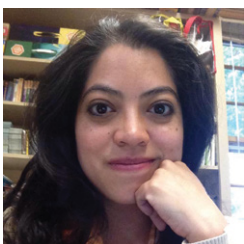
### **Eunice Villaneda-Bolaños**

BA, California State University, Northridge / MA, California State University, Long Beach / PhD, Claremont School of Theology (present)

Eunice is a first-generation Latina from Mexican heritage. Her interests revolve around the Valentinians, an early Christian sect that offered a dissident yet faithful voice during the early, formative years of doctrinal development. Eunice approaches the study of religion with the intent to subvert and challenge the dominant narrative of early Christianity and the perspective of early Christian groups deemed "heretical." Her research aims to reconstruct and highlight the Valentinian Christian narrative that lies embedded and intermingled with the several other Christianities in the first three centuries of the common era. In her research, Eunice also explores the role of women and gender among early Christianities as well as the role of individual and communal identity within them. Eunice is an active member of Iglesia de Sun Valley Discípulos de Cristo (Disciples of Christ) and is committed to working toward togetherness in an increasingly fragmented world.

## **Proposal and Research Scholars**

These scholars have passed comprehensive exams and are at the early stages of their dissertation proposal. They have been assigned an HTI editor for the 2021–2022 academic year.



### **Patricia Bonilla**

BA, Lake Forest College / MA, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary / MPhil, Drew University / PhD, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (present)

As the daughter of Mexican immigrants, Patricia's sociocultural and religious imagination was shaped by the stories of migration and the marginal and seemingly invisible status of Mexican Americans in the Midwest. As a Latina clergy person with ten years of parish ministry experience in the United Methodist Church, Patricia is compelled to research the role that the Church plays in effectively shaping leaders who are consciously integrated with the world around them and who can exert the necessary influence to create positive change in and for their communities. Her interests are focused on creating dialectic opportunities for critical pedagogical encounters where Latinx youth can experience God and help shape the world around them.



### **Panayotis (Otis) Coutsoumpos, Jr.**

BA, Columbia Union College (now, Washington Adventist University) / MDiv, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University / PhD, Claremont Graduate University (present)

Otis was born in Michigan and grew up in Costa Rica, Chile, and England before moving to the United States. His mother was born in the Dominican Republic and was raised in Puerto Rico and his father was born in Panama to a Greek father and a Panamanian mother. After working as a pastor in Maryland, Otis moved to California and is currently working as Associate Pastor for Community Engagement at La Sierra University Church. In view of his academic background in theological studies, Otis would like to dedicate his research to the area of philosophy of language with a special focus on religious language.



### **Jasmin Figueroa**

BA, The City College of New York / MDiv and MACEF, Princeton Theological Seminary / PhD, Boston University School of Theology (present)

Jasmin grew up in New York City, where she spent her life being influenced, in one way or another, by the different religious traditions that surrounded her. Through her extended family, she learned about Mennonite, *Latina Evangélica*, (afro-Caribbean) Catholic, Evangelical Christian, and Jewish beliefs and practices. Her own experiences growing up Catholic, attending an *Evangélica*/Presbyterian church, and later an Evangelical/Pentecostal church, majoring in Jewish Studies in undergrad, and interning as a pastor at a Reformed church and a chaplain at an inpatient psychiatric hospital while attending seminary further shaped her theologies and research interests. Jasmin has a deep appreciation for the roles that practical and pastoral theologies play in shaping communities, and seeks to highlight the ways that all people contribute to (and participate in) theological formation. Her dissertation project seeks to explore the ways that US millennials from minoritized communities embrace culturally competent and affirming theologies and care practices to mitigate the harms of oppressions.



### **Nancy Piedad Reyes Frazier**

BGS, Texas Tech University / MA, Texas Tech University / ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary / PhD, Dallas Theological Seminary (present)

Nancy is Mexican-American, and her interests include the intersection of theology and cultural phenomenology, particularly as it relates to revelation, communal ethics, spiritual formation, and the arts. Once she completes doctoral studies, Nancy plans to pursue teaching theology at an institution of higher learning and hopes to serve in a local church as part of their teaching and vision team. In addition to her academic writing, she would like to write for a general audience on the intersection of theology and race, theology and gender, theology and the arts, and theology and spiritual formation.



### **Chance Juliano**

BA, Lubbock Christian University/ MA, Abilene Christian University/ PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Chance Juliano is a Mexican-American born and raised on the plains of the Texas Panhandle. Throughout his undergraduate and graduate career, he was trained in the areas of Biblical studies, theology, and philosophy. Chance's current research interests lie in areas related to classical conceptions of God, liberation theology, and analytic theology. Specifically, he hopes to write his dissertation on the compatibility between a classical conception of God (with classical divine attributes such as aseity, simplicity, impassibility) and liberation theology. Upon graduation, Chance aims to obtain a teaching position while actively researching and publishing in the areas of historical theology, liberation theology, and analytic theology.



### **Alexandra Rosado-Román**

BA, Sacred Heart University / MA, Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico / MA, Drew Theological School / PhD, Vanderbilt Divinity School (present)

Alexandra is an Afro-Puerto Rican woman interested in discussing how the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and citizenship have worked to control the bodies of racialized women in Puerto Rico and throughout the Caribbean. The heart of her academic work and her use of decolonial and feminist theories with interreligious engagement, resides in her burning desire to rearticulate ethical and moral socio-religious valuations around racialized women on the island. She received the Patricia Wickham Prize for Feminist/ Womanist Scholarship granted by Drew Theological School, a prize that acknowledges overall excellence and creativity in feminist/womanist work.





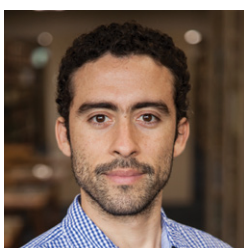
### **Yolanda Michelle Santiago Correa**

BA, Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, Recinto Metropolitano / MDiv, Duke Divinity School / PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Yolanda was born and raised in Puerto Rico. As the only child of two ordained ministers, at a very early age she understood the importance of who we are and what we believe in as key for the way we operate in this world. It was this reality that pushed her toward higher education to answer questions of identity, theology, race, and culture. Her goal is to engage Afro-Latinidad as a theological location through which we can understand God, our doctrines, and this world. Through her work, she hopes to critique not only the theologies of the dominant culture but also those of her own community while exalting lost voices—the voices of people whose skin is not white and whose theology is deeper and richer than any seminary could ever teach.

## **Dissertation Year Scholars**

These scholars are writing their dissertations. Each will receive editorial assistance throughout the 2021–2022 academic year.



### **Rodrigo de Galiza Barbosa**

BA, Centro Universitário Adventista de São Paulo / MDiv, Andrews University / PhD, Andrews University (present)

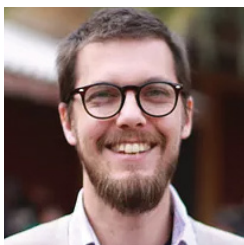
Rodrigo loves teaching topics related to the Bible and the history of religion. He is interested in the relationship between Judaism and Christianity, and how they developed their religious ideas. Rodrigo has taught Bible informally in a church setting since 1995, and has been involved in theological education in Brazil, Cuba, Israel, and the United States. His research focuses on how religious groups used the language of contamination in sacred space to exclude people from their communities. He is currently working on Latin Christianity and ancient Judaism, and he wants to expand this further to include the discourse of other religious groups.



### **Arelis (Aly) Benitez**

BA, Denison University / MA, Loma Linda University / MA, Vanderbilt University / PhD, Vanderbilt University (present)

A first-generation daughter of Mexican migrant parents, Arelis is well acquainted with survival narratives, loss, and marginalization and turns to theological studies for pastoral care responses to human suffering. Clinically trained as a healthcare chaplain, she integrates over a decade of experiences in pastoral ministry with vocational commitments to social justice that extend beyond the academy and into the public and private spheres. As a Latina pastoral theologian, she anchors her methodological approaches in the works of Gloria Anzaldúa towards the inclusion of Latinx communities and development of Latinx pastoral care responses within and outside the discipline of practical theology. Grounded in her own identities and *autohistoria-teoría*, Arelis explores parallels of suffering and healing in sexual identity (re)construction and migration narratives within the Latinx LGBTQ+ community. Her work critically analyzes and tends to the spiritual and psychological impact of both experiences. Currently, Arelis serves as a Field Educator at Vanderbilt Divinity School, Movement Chaplaincy Fellow with Faith Matters Network, and as a member of the CPE Professional Advisory Group at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



### **Felipe A. Chamy**

BTh, Centro de Estudios Pastorales IACH, Chile / MA (NT), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School / PhD, Wheaton College (present)

A native of Santiago de Chile, Felipe is an ordained minister in the Anglican Church and has served in pastoral ministry as well as a faculty member at the *Centro de Estudios Pastorales* for more than ten years, teaching Biblical Theology, Greek, New Testament Exegesis, and Old Testament books. Felipe's current research is in Biblical Theology, Romans, and the Old Testament's influence in Paul's writing. Felipe hopes to serve the wider global church, and Latin America in particular, by training pastors and leaders in both the church and the academy.



### **Gerardo A. Corpeño Nerio**

BTh, Seminario Teológico Centroamericano (SETECA), Guatemala / MTh, Seminario Teológico Centroamericano (SETECA), Guatemala / PhD, Wheaton College (present)

Gerardo is originally from El Salvador and lived in Guatemala for eight years. He previously served as a professor of Systematic and Latin American Theology at Seminario Teológico Centroamericano (SETECA) in Guatemala City. His research focuses on the implications of Christ's cross for reconciliation in violent societies. After graduation, Gerardo hopes to return to Guatemala and continue to serve at SETECA as theology professor, to continue contributing to the formation of Christian leadership throughout Latin America.



### **Eraldo Guedes da Costa**

BA, Faculdade Adventista da Bahia, Centro Universitário Adventista de São Paulo (Brazil) / MA, Andrews University / PhD, Andrews University (present)

Eraldo's areas of interest are the theology of religions, missional theology, transdisciplinary studies, formation and training of missionaries, and discipleship. His dissertation deals with the outsider's status in a canonical perspective as an interested advocate for justice grounded in God's fairness. His scholarship aims to provide biblical and missiological tools to uphold justice based on the history of oppression within, or exclusion from, a community, thus restoring the image of God. Eraldo is an ordained minister with ten years of experience in his home country, Brazil, and currently, as a coordinator, works on a project to equip lay people, developed in partnership with professors from the Institute of World Mission of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Eraldo is responsible for English, Spanish, and Portuguese-speaking countries.



### **Matthew Esquivel**

BA, Southern Methodist University / MTS, Southern Methodist University / PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Matthew Esquivel seeks to contribute to the field of the History of Christianity by exploring the early Church's notion of salvation as sharing in the life of God, what it means to be the Church, and the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. This includes how early Church communities, particularly in the Roman Province of North Africa, understood and practiced the sacraments, the charisms of the Holy Spirit, martyrdom and martyr veneration, and spiritual authority. He seeks to uncover insight as to how the Church today, including his own Pentecostal/Charismatic tradition, which he has pastored since 2009, could explore these questions in light of its own context.



### **Nathan Aaron García**

BA, St. Mary's College of California / MTS, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry / PhD, Oblate School of Theology (present)

Nathan Garcia's fields of interest are Peircean Pragmatism, theological anthropology, and psycho-spiritualities. Nathan's dissertation aims to cultivate a spiritual anthropology from a Pragmatic analysis of the anthropological spirituality of Thomas Moore. His aim is to formulate a philosophical foundation to provide for constructive dialogue across racial, cultural, and political boundaries.



### **Chauncey Diego Francisco Handy**

BA, Seattle Pacific University / MDiv, Duke Divinity School / MA, Hebrew University of Jerusalem / PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary (present)

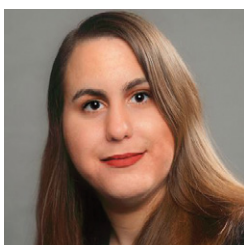
Chauncey's identity as a Chicano frames his research on the nature of ethnicity and belonging in the book of Deuteronomy. With Latinx concepts of identity, theories of ethnicity, and tools of historical criticism he explores the Pentateuch's complex relationship to forming ancient Israelite/Jewish ethnicity. Ordained in the PC(USA) and writing in Spanish and English, Chauncey encourages the church and academy to help create a just society by celebrating the distinctiveness of all backgrounds, heritages, and languages.



### **Francisco Herrera**

BM, University of Missouri-Kansas City / MDiv, Chicago Theological Seminary / ThM, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago / PhD, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (present)

The focus of all of Francisco's love and labor is to make spaces where people from every background and story—immigrant, Latinx, African American, Indigenous, and LGBTQ backgrounds, people living with disabilities, etc.—can come together and understand how their stories can heal, strengthen, and act as the foundation of new, highly-attentive communities in a kind of "*mestizaje integral*." As an academic he has coordinated conferences and revivals on decolonization and the church; as a teacher he regularly uses ritual, music, slam poetry, and drawing in his lectures to demonstrate postcolonial pedagogical and study methods; and as an activist he regularly coordinates direct action and fundraising for the sake of any and all efforts to bring justice to and heal God's fractured creation.



### **Christina Llanes**

BA, Loyola Marymount University / MA, The University of Chicago Divinity School / PhD, The University of Chicago Divinity School (present)

Christina is a doctoral candidate in History of Christianity. She specializes in the medieval Christian mysticism and her dissertation is on Angela of Foligno, a thirteenth century Italian laywoman. She argues that Angela of Foligno advances a theology of divine passibility, a radical idea during the medieval period. Through her dissertation, Christina seeks to lift voices that have historically been overlooked or silenced.



### **Vinicius Marinho**

BL, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro Law School / MA, University of Chicago Divinity School / PhD, The University of Chicago Divinity School (present)

Vinicius explores solutions to global economic and racial oppression. He researches grassroots initiatives and religious thought for the liberation of the Latin and the Black Americas. His dissertation experiments with the actual production and monetization of human dignity in Brazil. While Vinicius analyzes such structural matters historically and theologically, he synthesizes them with an insight derived from his legal experience: dignity only exists in acts that produce material redemption. Vinicius advances this claim by maximizing the innovating capacities of contemporary liberation theologies, critical legal studies, and philosophy.





### **Gerardo Oudri**

BA, Universidad Adventista del Plata, Argentina / DMin, Fuller Seminary / PhD, Andrews University (present)

Born in Uruguay, Gerardo immigrated to the United States after pursuing theological studies in Argentina. During his DMin studies, Gerardo specialized in holistic small groups (particularly in a postmodern context). His project was implemented in a local church in Ontario, Canada, resulting in remarkable qualitative and quantitative growth. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Religion with emphasis in Systematic Theology. Gerardo's areas of interest include Ecclesiology, Christological Anthropology, and Pneumatology. After graduating, he hopes to teach in Argentina.



### **Samuel Pagán**

BT, Universidad Adventista de las Antillas, Puerto Rico / MDiv, Andrews University / PhD, Andrews University (present)

Samuel is a Hispanic-American of Puerto Rican ancestry. Though he grew up in the United States, his teenage years were spent in Puerto Rico. After graduating with a BA in Theology from Puerto Rico, he returned to the United States where he then pastored in bilingual and multicultural settings for 20 years. He enjoys researching the 19th and 20th-century American evangelical movement as it relates to modern and post-modern Christianity. He is currently in the writing phase (ABD) of his PhD in Historical Theology and hopes to one day teach the new generation of evangelicals.



### **Elaine Penagos**

BA, University of Miami / MA, University of Denver / PhD, Emory University (present)

Elaine is a first-generation multicultural Latina from Cuban and Colombian heritage. Her interests lie at the multiple intersections of religion, identity, and materiality in Afro-Cuban and Latinx religious cultures. Elaine approaches the study of religion largely from a cultural context, and argues that religious traditions, especially those emerging from African and Indigenous cultures, are best understood through the creative outputs of practitioners, paying close attention to the various forms of art which practitioners create. Elaine's work primarily explores storytelling, focusing on the patakís, the mythological stories of West African deities known as the orisha. Her dissertation research examines the power, potential, and theo-sociological implications of reimagining religious worlds through Santería/Lucumí stories.



### **Carina O. Prestes**

BArch, Universidade Federal do Parana, Brazil / MA, Andrews University / PhD, Andrews University (present)

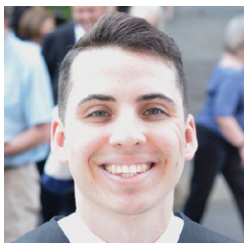
Originally from southern Brazil, Carina has had an interest in buildings and constructions all her life. During her undergraduate studies, she was fascinated by the study of ancient civilizations and buildings, which led her into contact with archaeological studies—a great fit for her architectural background. She started her master's in archaeology, followed by the doctoral program. During her PhD, she has participated in archaeological excavations of a Paleo-Christian site in Sicily, Italy. This exposition to the early Christian world through archaeology has raised in her the awareness of the gap in scholarship about women's roles in early Christianity. This became her focus of interest and topic of dissertation. With this research, she plans to bring the archaeological perspective into the discussion, which has been largely ignored in the academic world.



### **Mónica Isabel Rey**

BA, Virginia Commonwealth University / MA, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary / TM, Boston University School of Theology / PhD, Boston University Graduate Division of Religion (present)

Mónica sees her role in the theological academy as committed to advancing biblical literacy. Her desire is to equip students and congregations to think about the impact of Scripture in all matters. Mónica also desires to help combat the complacency and ignorance on matters of gender, racial, and sexual injustice as religious institutions are often the places where these social inequalities are perpetuated. Mónica hopes to be able to speak to the generation of American-born Latinxs who live in a new hybrid in-between space. The exploding population of American-born Latinxs are experiencing existential questions of identity as they carve out their own spaces and ask: What does it mean for me to be Latinx?



### **Luan Henrique Gomes Ribeiro**

BA, Centro Universitário Adventista de São Paulo / MTS, Harvard Divinity School / PhD, Harvard University (present)

Luan Henrique was born and raised in Curitiba-Brazil, where he first interacted with biblical scholarship. As a New Testament scholar, his interests lie on the intersection between objects, ritual, and text, as well as on how social-historical analyses of early Christian communities might enhance the ways modern scholarship approaches the study of the New Testament. He currently works with Christian texts from the first and second centuries CE in which Christ, or the Son of God, appears as an angelic figure. Therefore, his dissertation focuses on models of early Christologies that are angelomorphically framed within Jewish angelology as well as asks the questions: why did some early Christians choose angel-related imagery and language in order to portray the coming of their Messiah? What were the theological and phenomenological appeals of having an archangel-like Christ? Luan Henrique is also a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in the process of ordination.



### **Diana E. Rodríguez Click**

BA, Johnson University Florida / MDiv, Emory University / PhD, Emory University (present)

The need for greater critical studies of marginalized Christian theological perspectives deeply informs Diana's passion for theology. In particular, Puerto Rican women's rich and underrepresented theological contributions inspire her doctoral research. Engaging scholarship on Latinx popular Catholicism, Latina theology, and Puerto Rican popular religion, Diana's dissertation examines the theological significance of Puerto Rican women's Marian devotional practices. Through research and teaching in higher theological education, Diana aims to cultivate vital understandings of the complex histories embedded within theologies, and to foster liberative communal reflection upon the meaning of indigenous theologizing. Of Puerto Rican-Irish-German descent, Diana maintains a notable desire for her work to serve the cross-generational well-being of Puerto Rican, Latinx, and mixed-race communities and families.



### **José Santana**

BS, University of Dayton / MA, University of Dayton / PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

As a PhD Candidate, José studies the historical interplay between Africana religions and Christianity in the early modern Atlantic world. His research interests intersect around race and slavery, the development and expression of African religiosity in Latin America, and historical, theological, and theoretical interpretations of Christian interaction with surrounding cultures and religions. His current project questions the early development of Afro-Caribbean Catholicism through the encounter of enslaved Africans with the missional thought and methods of Jesuit missionaries in the early 17th century. With a growing consciousness of the African heritage amongst Latin American communities, his work foregrounds the resurgence of the rich history of African religious expression amongst Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean.



### **Crystal Silva-McCormick**

BA, Lubbock Christian University / MDiv, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary / ThM, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago / PhD, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (present)

Crystal's work has been largely focused on the history of Muslim-Christian relations. Her dissertation work will continue exploring the history of Muslim-Christian relations, but specifically in Latin America as well as current expressions of Christian Zionism. Crystal is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and has served on the board of the Parliament of the World's Religions and as part of the immigration collaborative of the United Church of Christ. Her academic research is informed by her commitment to interfaith relationships, the rights of immigrants, and the Latinx community. Crystal was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. Her mother, grandmother, and aunts and uncles immigrated to the United States from Mexico and it is their stories along with being raised on the border that have shaped her spiritual and personal identity as a scholar and minister.



### **Pamela J. Stevens**

BA, University of California, San Diego / MDiv, Yale Divinity School / PhD, Graduate Theological Union (present)

Pamela studies the material, visual, and experiential qualities of liturgical textiles in Sixteenth-century Spain, England, and New Spain. Her focus is on garments of shame exhibited by the Inquisition in Sixteenth-century New Spain. She employs an interdisciplinary approach and draws from her own multicultural, multilingual life experiences growing up in Los Angeles to explore through the medium of cloth how identities and belief systems weave together amid Christian reform, retrenchment, empire, colonialism, hybridity, and resilience. Pamela is in discernment for ordained ministry and remains active in ministry with children, youth, and families in English-speaking and Spanish-speaking multicultural congregations. She plans to teach at a university or seminary while continuing to serve in ministry.



### **Seth Anthony Villegas**

BA, Stanford University / MA, Fuller Theological Seminary / PhD, Boston University (present)

Seth Villegas is a PhD student in constructive theology. He specializes in issues related to the dialogue between religion and science. He focuses primarily on how technology affects religious and religious-like ideas. Seth developed many of his current interests in religion and technology while he was an undergraduate in Silicon Valley. His current research examines transhumanist and other secular communities, asking questions about the future of religious life.

# HTI OPEN PLAZA

For centuries, the plaza has been a central feature of city life throughout Latin America. Originally designed for the purpose of military protection, the plaza mayor was often surrounded by cathedrals, government buildings, and other structures of cultural and political significance. In fact, most colonial cities in Latin America were planned around this very square. It was the hub of commerce, communication, and political and religious life.

While the plaza mayor no longer serves as a place of refuge in case of a military attack upon the city or government persecution, this image of a public square as an organizing space, a unifying power, a facilitator of communication, and a catalyst for the exchange of goods, ideas, and services across cultures remains throughout the Americas.

It is precisely this public square image that is the driving factor for your Hispanic Theological Initiative's **Open Plaza** ([htiopenplaza.org](http://htiopenplaza.org)), a platform that amplifies the voices of diverse thinkers and scholars in the public square. Building on the collaborative *En Conjunto* commitments of HTI, this virtual meeting space is anchored in diverse Latinx thinking and experiences. The **Open Plaza** builds a conversational and interdisciplinary space among intellectuals in religion and theology, with the goal of advancing the wellbeing of Latinx communities and society. It showcases the lively exchange between scholars, mentors, editors, advisors, faculty, presidents, and deans among the academy, the church, and the world via blogs and podcasts.

Since its launch in November 2019, HTI **Open Plaza** has been engaging issues of religion, history, and social justice affecting Latinx communities, specifically in the areas of:

- Culture
- Education
- Gender & Sexuality
- Health
- Migration
- Politics & Economics

In response to COVID-19, **Open Plaza** introduced CO-VIDA 19, with a series of blogs and podcasts that spoke to on-the-ground issues faced by Latinx communities during the pandemic crisis. And in facing the evils of racism and anti-black violence that is rampant in our nation and the world, **Open Plaza** offers AfroSpiritus, to counter the horrific rhetoric and actions that continue to diminish human relationships and communities.

We invite you to **Open Plaza** and to consider it a companion on a drive or walk to work, a soothing meditation in the middle of a restless night, a resource for an online Bible study, or a quote for an academic paper, lecture, or for a syllabus.

Consider becoming a contributor and working *en conjunto* with a faculty-led team of editors from academic institutions throughout the United States and Canada. HTI **Open Plaza** is made possible by the generous support of the Henry Luce Foundation.

“With the plethora of websites and blogs on theological topics, it might be difficult as a writer or reader to point to ONE particular platform as a favorite. Not for me. I value Open Plaza's contributions in the public square more than any other theological-oriented platform. The content is always rich, the writing creative, and the conversations so inspiring. Open Plaza's editors are the best I've worked with, and I look forward to continuing my contributions in hopes of engendering deep theological imagination on a range of topics.”

César "CJ" Baldelomar  
Ph.D. student, Boston College



## Perspectivas

[perspectivasonline.com](http://perspectivasonline.com)

*Perspectivas* is a peer-reviewed bilingual journal of the Hispanic Theological Initiative. It is a vehicle that reaches a broad audience, including faculty and students, as well as a growing number of churches and other community organizations across the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. In 2016, *Perspectivas* moved to its new home at ***Perspectivasonline.com*** as an online journal.

Individuals who are interested in submitting their works are encouraged to visit [Perspectivasonline.com/submissions](http://Perspectivasonline.com/submissions) and read the submission guidelines and deadline information.

## Journeys

HTI's online quarterly newsletter, *Journeys*, has a readership of more than 2,000 individuals across the country and abroad. The newsletter features updates on HTI Consortium members, graduates and current HTI scholars, announcements of new publications, employment opportunities, and information about academic and church events.

To subscribe and to read current and past issues visit **[htiprogram.org](http://htiprogram.org)**.

## HTI Dissertation Series Collection

This collection, housed in the Princeton Theological Seminary Library, provides scholars across the nation with access to dissertations written by HTI graduates. Currently, there are more than 48 works in the collection, with additions made throughout the year. Search the list of dissertations under the title "HTI" or "HTI dissertation collection." Interlibrary loans are possible through OCLC at local libraries, and the material is available for a four-week loan period with in-library use.

Access the online catalog by visiting **[catalog.ptsem.edu](http://catalog.ptsem.edu)**.

## HTI Website

HTI offers academic institutions, students, and pastors a comprehensive website, **[htiprogram.org](http://htiprogram.org)**, featuring information on each of our **24** member institutions, including:

- HTI consortium member schools profile
- Financial information and resources
- Hispanic/Latinx faculty
- Hispanic centers and programs
- Library resources
- HTI graduates' profiles
- Current and past issues of the online quarterly newsletter, *Journeys*
- Books written by HTI graduates
- Grant opportunities
- And much more ...

## HTI on Social Media

Join us on social media to receive the most current happenings at HTI, updates on HTI member institutions, announcements on new publications, employment opportunities, and information about academic and church events.



Facebook  
[/htiprogram](https://www.facebook.com/htiprogram)



Twitter  
[@HTIprogram](https://twitter.com/HTIprogram)



Instagram  
[@htiprogram](https://www.instagram.com/htiprogram)



YouTube Channel  
[youtube.com/channel/UCIRgPK5M9d1w7IgGdmGL8zg](https://youtube.com/channel/UCIRgPK5M9d1w7IgGdmGL8zg)

Scan here to quickly access HTI on Social Media



# HTI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In 2019, HTI introduced the pre-dissertation HTI Internship Program to enhance and advance the leadership capacities of HTI Scholars. HTI does this by providing year-long and summer internships at Hispanic-serving non-profits in religious and theological education. The HTI Internship Program is a way for HTI Scholars to gain key leadership skills and knowledge in non-profit settings while building partnerships in hopes to expand their networks. The partnerships built through this program will inform participants' scholarship and discipline for future employment opportunities.

Each internship provides the student with a stipend and travel funds as well as a stipend for the supervisor at the site. Executive and associate directors of non-profit programs serve as mentors and supervisors to the scholars.

Thus far, HTI has established internship sites with HTI partner institutions: the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (AHTUS), Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana (AETH), Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America-Bautistas por la Paz (BPFNA), Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas (Convención), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship—Latino Network (CBF), Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA), and World Outspoken.

## Through these internships, participants:

- Develop skillsets through engagement with Hispanic-serving non-profits;
- Strengthen the partnering institutions' ability to further their missions;
- Explore leadership styles and learn skills in problem solving;
- Practice teaching and lecturing skills;
- Gain hands-on knowledge that can support their doctoral work;
- Stay connected to the communities they earnestly wish to support;
- Apply their theological and religious education and discover leadership roles in the nonprofit sector that they may not have recognized;
- Lessen student debt.

## The non-profit Hispanic-serving institutions benefit by:

- Gaining support for current and new projects;
- Connecting with scholars who can continue to support their work;
- Learning new ways to approach teaching, learning, and leading.

The internship programs are made possible by the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Hispanic-serving non-profits and denominations interested in partnering with HTI and working with an HTI scholar may contact Dr. João Chaves, HTI Assistant Director for Programming, by email at [joao.chaves@ptsem.edu](mailto:joao.chaves@ptsem.edu).

“**Hosting an HTI Intern through ACHTUS allowed us to both accomplish significant goals set for the year as well as respond in creative ways to the pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice. As a not-for-profit organization with no paid staff, the HTI internship program provided a wonderful intern to do work which would otherwise not be done for the organization. José Santana worked with a webmaster to complete a revamp of our website as well as update social media accounts to all. Furthermore, when we were forced into social distancing and into making decisions about our annual colloquium, having an HTI Intern allowed us to be creative about informal meeting space, which even allowed for a partnership with another organization. We are so grateful for the HTI Intern program and hope to host interns in the future!**”

**Dr. Neomi DeAnda**

Supervisor

Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
University of Dayton  
Former president, ACHTUS

# HTI EARLY CAREER ORIENTATION

Early Career Orientation (ECO) provides post-graduation career development through mentoring and workshops, which support scholars transitioning into professional careers and help them become greater contributors and partners for their hiring institution.

New scholar-leaders will learn techniques to navigate an institution and contribute to its leadership in meaningful ways.

## The goal of the ECO is to train recently employed graduates with the ability to:

- Read their institution to make a smoother transition in the first two years;
- Build strong relationships with their presidents, deans, and faculties;
- Discover the best way to support their institution;
- Develop their teaching style in the next context;
- Learn to better negotiate their involvement in committee meetings;
- Understand the importance of self-care during this major transition;
- Write a plan for tenure and book publication in the next five years.

## In turn, institutions will gain support in three important ways:

- Acquisition of a contributing, collaborative, and committed faculty member;
- A potential reduction in the turnover of faculty;
- An increase in the ethnic and cultural diversity of faculty.

Through this initiative HTI seeks to equip recent graduates with the skills and knowledge to succeed as global leaders in academia, grassroots initiatives, and communities of faith.

ECO is made possible by the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc.

“HTI’s ministry is that of *acompañamiento*. For decades, HTI was journeying with us through our doctoral studies. Now, with ECO, HTI continues alongside us as we navigate the, at-times, terrifying first steps into our academic careers. Stepping into my new faculty post, I am ever grateful for the ECO mentors and peers. Led ably and compassionately by mentors with years of experience, this HTI program for new faculty poured new life into me. The ECO created a place for us to share fears and hopes, concerns, and joys. I am now living in my call to teach with boldness and courage, thanks to HTI and its ECO. I am eternally grateful. HTI ¡Gracias!”

**Dr. José Francisco Morales Torres**  
Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies,  
Chicago Theological Seminary

# HTI BOOK PRIZE

The HTI Book Prize was established in 2002 to motivate junior scholars to publish in their field. The award recognizes and rewards the best book written by a junior Latinx scholar on theology and/or religion each year. The prize includes a monetary award and a guest lectureship at the annual HTI Professional Development Conference. Please visit [www.htiprogram.org](http://www.htiprogram.org) for submission guidelines. Its immediate and long-term goals are to:

- Present models that will inspire further contributions by Latinx scholars;
- Recognize, reward, and publicize annually the best book written by a Latinx junior scholar on theology and/or religion;
- Help leverage tenure for the junior scholars;
- Furnish faculty with the best and most current Latinx book(s) for use in their selection of required and recommended bibliography for courses.

## Book Prize Winners

- 2020 *In Place and Identity in the Lives of Antony, Paul, and Mary of Egypt: Desert as Borderland*  
by Dr. Peter Anthony Mena
- 2019 *Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood*  
by Dr. Patrick Reyes
- 2018 *Cain, Abel, and the Politics of God: An Agambenian reading of Genesis 4:1-16*  
by Dr. Julian Andrés González Holguín
- 2012 *Mestizaje: (Re) Mapping Race, Culture, and Faith in Latino/a Catholicism*  
by Dr. Néstor Medina
- 2011 *Divino Compañero: Toward a Hispanic Pentecostal Christology*  
by Dr. Sammy Alfaro
- 2010 *Bearing the Weight of Salvation: The Soteriology of Ignacio Ellacuría*  
by Dr. Michael E. Lee
- 2009 *From Patmos to the Barrio: Subverting Imperial Myths*  
by Dr. David Sánchez
- 2008 *Mozarabs, Hispanics & The Cross*  
by Dr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz
- 2005 *Latino Pentecostal Identity: Evangelical Faith, Self, and Society*  
by Dr. Arlene Sánchez-Walsh
- 2004 *Sor Juana: Beauty and Justice in the Americas*  
by Dr. Michelle González-Maldonado
- 2003 *Mapping Public Theology*  
by Dr. Benjamin Valentín
- 2002 *On Being Human: U.S. Hispanic and Rahnerian Perspectives*  
by Dr. Miguel Díaz

“I want to express my deepest gratitude for having been selected to receive HTI’s annual book award; thanks to all of the HTI *familia* for this very special honor. When I think of the list of previous recipients of this award, I can only feel moved and simultaneously undeserving of this honor. It feels as if it was not long ago that I, as a doctoral student, watched several recipients receive this award—never anticipating that I too, would one day receive this monumental honor. What I can anticipate now is that this will be one of the greatest distinctions of my career and of my life.”

**Dr. Peter Anthony Mena**  
Assistant Professor of Theology  
and Religious Studies  
University of San Diego



# HTI SUCCESS

## HTI Master's Fellows

From 1997 to 2001, HTI supported 48 master's students from 26 seminaries and divinity schools. These HTI master's graduates are now serving in the church, academy, and public life. They lead in churches and in schools across the nation and around the world, preparing the next generation to lead in a diverse and challenging world.

**Rafael Acosta**

Harvard Divinity School

**Judy A. Armas López**

Franciscan School of Theology

**Diana Ávila (deceased)**

Jesuit School of Theology

**Maricarmen C. Castro**

San Francisco Theological Seminary

**César Chaves**

Pacific School of Religion

**Martín Concepción**

McCormick Theological Seminary

**Claudio Díaz**

University of St. Mary of the Lake

**María Díaz**

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**Carlo J. Ellard**

Yale Divinity School

**Víctor Feliberty-Ruberté, PhD**

Columbia Theological Seminary

**Verónica García**

Harvard Divinity School

**Adelita Garza**

Fuller Theological Seminary

**Thomas Laporté, PhD**

Candler School of Theology at  
Emory University

**Juan Gabriel Lara**

University of Saint Mary of the Lake

**Jaime López**

Harvard Divinity School

**Nelly Lorenzo**

Loyola University (Chicago)

**Maricarmen Laureano-Ortega**

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**Ewin Martínez**

Union Theological Seminary  
in the City of New York

**Hjamil Martínez-Vázquez, PhD**

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**José del Carmen Méndez Izquierdo**

University of Saint Mary of the Lake

**Marco Mercado López**

University of Saint Mary of the Lake

**Pedro E. Miranda-Torres**

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**Carmen Moreno (Albarrán)**

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Felix Muñoz**

Ashland Theological Seminary

**Magdiel Narváez Negrón**

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**Daniela Nogués**

San Francisco Theological Seminary

**Carlos Parra, PhD**

Harvard Divinity School

**Santiago Piñon, PhD**

The University of Chicago

**Oleta M. Proctor-Fernández**

Graduate Theological Union/Jesuit  
School of Theology

**David Ramos**

Princeton Theological Seminary

**Ricardo Ramos, DMin**

Drew University Theological School

**Mayra Rivera, PhD**

Drew University Theological School

**Saúl Rivera**

Andrews University

**Rady Roldán-Figueroa, PhD**

New Brunswick Theological Seminary

**Ariel Rodríguez (deceased)**

Drew University Theological School

**Armando Rodríguez Jr., PhD**

Garrett-Evangelical  
Theological Seminary

**América Rojas**

Pacific School of Religion

**Carla Elena Roland Guzmán, PhD**

Church Divinity School of the Pacific

**Gabriel A. Salguero**

New Brunswick Theological Seminary

**Angel Santiago-Vendrell, PhD**

Church of God Theological Seminary

**María I. Santiviago-Espinal**

New York Theological Seminary

**Carmelo Santos, PhD**

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

**David G. Soto-Valenzuela**

Drew University Theological School

**Hamleth Terrones**

Fuller Theological Seminary

**Lorena Maria Thompson Thompson**

Emory University

**Felipe Vaglienty**

University of St. Mary of the Lake

**Brendaly Vélez**

Fuller Theological Seminary

**Christopher Ysaïs**

Harvard Divinity School

## HTI PhD Graduates from 1997 to 2021

During the past 25 years, HTI has supported 147 doctoral students. These HTI doctoral and post-doctoral graduates are now serving in the church, academy, and public life. They teach and write in schools across the nation and around the world, preparing the next generation to lead in a diverse and challenging world.

### **Javier R. Alanís**

Executive Director and Associate Professor of Theology, Culture, and Mission, Retired Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest

### **Jared Alcántara**

Associate Professor of Preaching and Paul W. Powell Endowed Chair in Preaching  
Baylor University—George W. Truett Theological Seminary

### **Salvador Leavitt-Alcántara**

Clinical Research Manager in Pastoral Care  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

### **Mariana Alessandri**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Affiliate Faculty in Religious Studies, Gender, and Women's Studies and Mexican-American Studies  
The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley

### **Sammy G. Alfaro**

Professor of Theology  
Grand Canyon University

### **Antonio (Tony) Alonso**

Director of Catholic Studies and Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture  
Candler School of Theology at Emory University

### **Xochitl Alvizo**

Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
California State University, Northridge

### **Edwin David Aponte**

Executive Director  
The Louisville Institute

### **Jorge A. Aquino**

Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies and Latin American Studies  
University of San Francisco

### **Wendy Arce**

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Graduate Theological Union

### **Rubén Arjona**

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care  
Union Presbyterian Seminary

### **Enrique Báez-García**

Pastor  
Forest Grove Spanish SDA Church,  
Forest Grove, Oregon

### **José E. Balcells**

Founder and Faculty Member  
Iodea Humacao, Puerto Rico

### **Saul Barcelo**

Director of the Center for Whole Person Care:  
Integrating Faith and Healing  
Assistant Professor School of Religion  
Loma Linda University

### **Eric Barreto**

Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament  
Princeton Theological Seminary

### **Paul Barton**

Senior Pastor  
Casa Emanu-El United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas

### **Ana Bedard**

Senior Manager, Executive Development  
AbbVie, Chicago, Illinois

### **Rebecca Berru-Davis**

Assistant Professor of Theology  
St. Catherine University

### **Melisa Marie Ortiz Berry**

Assistant Professor of History and World Christianity  
Bushnell University

### **Víctor Carmona**

Assistant Professor of Latina/o Theologies  
University of San Diego

### **Tommy Casarez**

Associate Dean, Division of Theology  
Assistant Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology  
Vanguard University

### **Socorro Castañeda**

Co-Founder & Chief Education Officer  
Becoming Mujeres, California

### **Daniel Patrick Castillo**

Assistant Professor of World Christianity  
Loyola University Maryland

### **Manuela Ceballos**

Assistant Professor of Islam  
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

### **João Chaves**

Assistant Director for Programming  
Hispanic Theological Initiative

### **Arturo Chávez**

Associate Vice President for Mission & Ministry and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
University of the Incarnate Word

### **Elizabeth Conde-Frazier**

Coordinator of Relations with Entities of Theological Education  
Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana

### **Jeremy Cruz**

Associate Professor of Theological Ethics  
St. John's University

### **Gregory Lee Cuéllar**

Associate Professor of Old Testament  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

### **Frederick John Dalton**

Teacher of Religious Studies  
Bellarmine College Preparatory

### **Maziel Barreto Dani**

Director of Family Support Services  
Catholic Charities, Oklahoma

### **María Teresa Dávila**

Associate Professor of Practice, Religious and Theological Studies  
Merrimack College

### **Cristian De La Rosa**

Director of Contextual Education and Community Partnerships  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Contextual Theology and Practice  
Boston University

### **Joseph De León**

Lecturer  
University of the Incarnate Word

### **Liam de los Reyes**

Associate Professor of Moral Theology  
Mount Angel Seminary

### **Anita De Luna (deceased)**

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
Our Lady of the Lake University

### **Neomi DeAnda**

Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
University of Dayton

### **Teresa Delgado**

Program Director, Peace and Justice Studies  
Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics  
Iona College

### **Miguel Díaz**

US Ambassador to the Holy See, Retired  
The John Courtney Murray University Chair in Public Service  
Loyola University Chicago

### **Esther Díaz-Bolet**

Independent Scholar

### **Fellipe do Vale**

Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

**Rubén Dupertuis**

Department Chair  
Associate Professor of Religion  
Trinity University

**Jennifer Fernández**

Consultant & Independent Scholar

**Marlene Ferreras**

Assistant Professor of Practical Theology  
La Sierra University, HMS Richards Divinity School

**Daniel F. Flores**

Luther W. and Ruth E. Sappenfield Chair  
in Library Science  
Texas Lutheran University

**Thomas Vincent Flores**

Assistant Professor of Positive Human Development  
and Social Change Life University

**Renata Furst-Lambert**

Associate Dean for Hispanic Engagement  
Montalbano Chair in Scripture  
Associate Professor of Scripture and Spirituality  
Oblate School of Theology

**Ángel J. Gallardo**

Associate Director of Intern Programs  
Perkins School of Theology at Southern  
Methodist University

**Yvette García**

Vice President of Advancement  
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**Cristina García-Alfonso**

Clinical Pastoral Education Specialist  
UNC Rex Healthcare, Raleigh, North Carolina

**Francisco Javier Goitía Padilla**

Director for Theological Formation, Seminaries  
and Schools  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Néstor Gómez Morales**

Lead Pastor  
First Congregational Church, Stamford, Connecticut

**Raúl Gómez Ruiz**

President-Rector  
Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

**Alexander R. Gonzales**

Associate Professor of Bible Exposition  
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**Awilda González**

Professor of New Testament  
Centro Educativo de Estudios Bíblicos

**Julian A. González**

Associate Professor of Old Testament  
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

**Michelle González Maldonado**

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Scranton

**Cecilia González-Andrieu**

Professor of Theology and Theological Aesthetics  
Loyola Marymount University

**Yara González-Justiniano**

Assistant Professor of Religion, Culture, and Psychology  
Vanderbilt University

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**Leonel (Leo) Guardado**

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**Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz**

Associate Professor of Christian Scriptures  
Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry

**Lauren Guerra**

Lecturer  
Cesar E. Chavez Department of Chicana/o Studies  
University of California, Los Angeles

**Robyn Henderson-Espinoza**

Founder, Activist Theology Project  
Visiting Professor  
Duke Divinity School

**Abner F. Hernández**

Assistant Professor of Church History  
Andrews University, Michigan

**Alberto Hernández**

Associate Professor of the History of Christianity  
Iliff School of Theology

**Juan Hernández, Jr.**

Professor of Biblical Studies  
Bethel University

**Rodolfo Hernández-Díaz**

Assistant Professor  
Meiho University, Taiwan

**Lydia Hernández Marcial**

Professor Old Testament and Hebrew  
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**Ann Hidalgo**

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Professor of Latina/o/x Studies and Religion  
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The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian  
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Claremont School of Theology

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Lilly Endowment Inc.

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Director, Center for the Study of Latinx Christianity  
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Associate Professor of Christianity and Cultures  
Perkins School of Theology at Southern  
Methodist University

**Loida I. Martell**

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean  
Professor of Constructive Theology  
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**Hjamil A. Martínez Vázquez**

Teacher  
Crowley Independent School District, Texas

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Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
Santa Clara University

**Gilberto Medina**

President  
Gilberto Medina Ministries

**Lara Medina**

Professor, Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies  
California State University, Northridge

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Assistant Professor of Religious Ethics  
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in the University of Toronto

**Manuel Jesús Mejido Costoya**

Research Scholar  
Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry

**Peter Anthony Mena**

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**Angel F. Méndez-Montoya**

Professor of Philosophy of Religion  
Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico

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Assistant Professor of New Testament  
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Lecturer in Church Music  
Baylor University School of Music

**Juan Carlos Morales**

Pastor  
Park Slope Christian Tabernacle, Brooklyn, New York  
Adjunct Professor  
Western Theological Seminary  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

**José Francisco Morales Torres**

Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies  
Chicago Theological Seminary

**Matilde K. Moros**

Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality,  
and Women's Studies  
Virginia Commonwealth University

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Director, Iniciativa Ministerial Hispana  
Associate Professor of Biblical Studies  
Andrews University

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Metropolitan State University of Denver

**Oswald John Nira**

Adult Faith Formation Team  
Mission Concepción Catholic Church,  
San Antonio, Texas

**Elias Ortega Aponte**

President  
Meadville Lombard Theological School

**Jennifer Owens-Jofré**

Independent Scholar

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Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion and  
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Director of Graduate Religious Studies  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
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**Segundo Pantoja**

Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies  
Borough of Manhattan Community College /CUNY

**Adam Perez**

Postdoctoral Associate in Worship  
Duke University Divinity School

**Zaida Maldonado Pérez**

Professor of Church History and Theology, Retired  
Asbury Theological Seminary, Florida Dunnam Campus

**Altagracia Pérez-Bullard**

Director of Contextual Ministry  
Assistant Professor of Practical Theology  
Virginia Theological Seminary

**Jonathan Pimentel Chacón**

Professor  
Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica

**Santiago Piñón**

Director of Latina/o Studies Program  
Associate Professor of Religion  
Texas Christian University

**Daniel Ramírez**

Associate Professor of American Religions  
Claremont Graduate University

**Erica Ramirez**

Director of Applied Research  
Auburn Seminary

**Rafael Reyes III**

Director of Information Literacy and Library Services  
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**Mayra Rivera**

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**Jesús Rodríguez**

Professor of Pastoral Theology, Personality and Culture  
Inter American University of Puerto Rico,  
Metropolitan Campus

**Jorge Juan Rodríguez**

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Hispanic Summer Program

**Martin Daniel Rodríguez**

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**Armando Rodríguez Jr.**

Pastor  
The First United Methodist Church of Bartow, Florida  
Adjunct Professor of Bible  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

**Carla Elena Roland-Guzmán**

Rector  
The Church of St. Matthew & St. Timothy, New York,  
New York  
Affiliated Professor of Church History  
General Seminary

**Rady Roldán-Figueroa**

Director of the Center for Latin American Studies  
Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Associate Professor of the History of Christianity  
Boston University School of Theology

**Benjamin Rolsky**

Research Fellow  
Lehigh University College of Arts and Sciences

**Miguel J. Romero**

Assistant Professor, Religious and Theological Studies  
Salve Regina University

**Rubén Rosario-Rodríguez**

Director, Mev Puleo Scholarship in Latin American  
Theology and Culture  
Director of the MA Program in Theological Studies  
Professor of Theology  
Saint Louis University

**Norman Ruano**

Deputy Director of Illinois Works  
Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic  
Opportunity, Chicago, Illinois

**Gilberto A. Ruiz**

Assistant Professor of Theology  
Saint Anselm College

**David A. Sánchez (deceased)**

Director of American Cultures  
Associate Professor of Theological Studies  
Loyola Marymount University

**Leopoldo A. Sánchez M.**

Director of the Center for Hispanic Studies  
Werner R. H. and Elizabeth R. Krause Professor  
of Hispanic Ministries  
Full Professor of Systematic Theology  
Concordia Seminary

**Angel Santiago-Vendrell**

Associate Professor of Evangelism  
Asbury Theological Seminary, Florida Dunnam Campus

**Carmelo Santos-Rolón**

Director for Theological Diversity and Ecumenical  
and Interreligious Engagement  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

**Eric Joseph Sias**

Adjunct Professor  
Berkeley School of Theology  
St. Mary's College of California

**Anandi Silva Knuppel**

Visiting Assistant Professor  
Lawrence University

**Luis Tampe**

Associate Professor, Department of Engineering  
Wheeling Jesuit University

**Stephanie Mota Thurston**

Research Fellow in the Religion Department  
University of Illinois

**Christopher Tirres**

Vincent de Paul Professor of Religious Studies  
and the Inaugural Endowed Professor  
of Diplomacy and Interreligious Engagement  
DePaul University

**Theresa L. Torres**

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Sociology,  
and Latina/o Studies  
University of Missouri-Kansas City

**Jorge Luis Valdés**

Independent Scholar

**Benjamín Valentín**

Professor of Theology and Latinx Studies  
Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

**O. Ernesto Valiente**

Associate Professor of Systematic Theology  
Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

**Lis Valle**

Assistant Professor of Homiletics  
McCormick Theological Seminary

**Héctor Varela Rios**

Assistant Professor of Theology  
Villanova University



**Grace Vargas**  
Assistant Professor of Latinx Religious Traditions  
Texas Christian University,

**Horacio Vela III**  
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
University of the Incarnate Word

**Efraín Velázquez II**  
President  
Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary

**Manuel Villalobos-Mendoza**  
Affiliated Assistant Professor of New Testament  
Interpretation  
Chicago Theological Seminary

**Jonathan Warren**  
Co-Associate Rector  
Church of the Ascension, Pittsburgh, PA

**Aizaiah Yong**  
Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and  
Pastoral Care  
Pacific School of Religion

**Theresa A. Yugar**  
Lecturer  
California State University, Los Angeles

**Raúl Zegarra**  
Lecturer  
Loyola University Chicago

## HTI Post-Doctoral Fellows from 1997 to 2001

**Efraín Agosto**  
Croghan Bicentennial Professor in Biblical  
and Early Christian Studies  
Williams College

**Paul Barton**  
Senior Pastor  
Casa Emanu-El United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas

**Rudy V. Busto**  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
University of California, Santa Barbara

**Miguel A. De La Torre**  
Professor of Social Ethics and Latina/o Studies  
Iliff School of Theology

**Gastón Espinosa**  
Arthur V. Stoughton Professor of Religious Studies  
Claremont McKenna College

**Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J.**  
Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Ministry  
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University  
Graduate Theological Union

**Luis Daniel León (deceased)**  
Professor of Religion in the Americas  
University of Denver

**Francisco Lozada Jr.**  
Charles Fischer Catholic Associate Professor  
of New Testament and Latina/o Church Studies  
Brite Divinity School

**Lara Medina**  
Professor  
Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies  
California State University, Northridge

**Luis Pedraja**  
President  
Quinsigamond Community College

## HTI Scholars by Institution from 2008 to 2022

### Andrews University, Michigan

**Rodrigo de Galiza Barbosa**  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
2019–2022 Dissertation

**Eraldo Guedes da Costa**  
2018–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**Elmer A. Guzman**  
2017–2019 Dissertation

**Abner F. Hernández, PhD**  
2013–2014 Comprehensive Exams  
2014–2017 Dissertation

**Iriann Marie Irizarry**  
2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral  
2016–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Dissertation

**Jonathan Leonardo**  
2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral  
2016–2017 Comprehensive Exams

**Erick Mendieta**  
2013–2014 Comprehensive Exams  
2014–2017 Dissertation

**Michael Orellana**  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2020 Dissertation

**Gerardo Oudri**  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**Samuel Pagán**  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**Carina O. Prestes**  
2018–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**Flavio Prestes III**  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams

**Abelardo José Rivas**  
2016–2021 Dissertation

### Baylor University, Texas

**João Chaves, PhD**  
2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams  
2016–2018 Dissertation

**Yvette D. Garcia, PhD**  
2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams  
2016–2019 Dissertation

**Robert Vincent Martínez**  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

**María Monteiro, PhD**  
2020–2021 Dissertation

**Kerwin Rodríguez**  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

**Christian Sánchez**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

### Boston University School of Theology, Massachusetts

**Xochitl Alvizo, PhD**  
2014–2015 Dissertation

**Jasmin Elise Figueroa**  
2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2022 Proposal and Research

**Yara González-Justiniano, PhD**  
2014–2015 First-Year Doctoral  
2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral  
2016–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2019 Dissertation

**Jacob Leal**  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

**Daniel Montañez**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

**Mónica Isabel Rey**  
2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**KMarie Tejada**  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

**Seth Anthony Villegas**  
2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

### **Brite Divinity School, Texas**

**Maziel Barreto Dani, PhD**  
2012–2013 First-Year Doctoral  
2013–2014 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2019 Dissertation

### **Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Georgia**

**Antonio (Tony) Alonso, PhD**  
2013–2014 Second-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Comprehensive Exams  
2015–2017 Dissertation

**Danny Ballon**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

**Manuela Ceballos, PhD**  
2013–2014 Dissertation

**Anandi Silva Knuppel, PhD**  
2018–2019 Dissertation

**Sarah Kothe**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

**Melissa Pagán, PhD**  
2010–2011 First-Year Doctoral  
2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral  
2012–2014 Comprehensive Exams  
2014–2015 Dissertation

**Elaine Penagos**  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2022 Dissertation

**Diana Rodriguez Click**  
2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral  
2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2020 Proposal and Research  
2020–2022 Dissertation

### **Claremont Graduate University, California**

**Melisa Ortiz Berry, PhD**  
2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2017 Dissertation

**Panayotis Coutsoumpas, Jr.**  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research

**Thomas Evans**  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams

**Stephanie Valeska Lopez Griswold**  
2020–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

**G. Jorge Medina**  
2018–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams

**Joshua Méndez**  
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams

### **Claremont School of Theology, California**

**Saul Barcelo, PhD**  
2019–2020 Dissertation

**Ann Hidalgo, PhD**  
2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral  
2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral  
2013–2014 Comprehensive Exams  
2014–2015 Dissertation

**Altagracia Pérez-Bullard, PhD**  
2010–2011 First-Year Doctoral  
2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral  
2012–2014 Comprehensive Exams  
2014–2015 Dissertation

**Marlene Mayra Ferreras, PhD**  
2017–2019 Dissertation

**José Francisco Morales Torres, PhD**  
2018–2019 Dissertation

**Rafael Reyes III, PhD**  
2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams  
2016–2019 Dissertation

**Eunice Villaneda-Bolaños**  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams

**Aizaiah Yong, PhD**  
2019–2020 Dissertation

### **Dallas Theological Seminary, Texas**

**Nancy Frazier**  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research

**Ramón Uribe**  
2016–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral

### **Drew University, New Jersey**

**Gonzalo R. Alers**  
2019–2020 First-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams

**Damien Domenack**  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

**Fernando Linhares**  
2014–2015 Comprehensive Exams

**Peter Anthony Mena, PhD**  
2010–2011 Comprehensive Exams  
2012–2014 Dissertation

**Erica Michelle Ramírez, PhD**  
2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral  
2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral  
2013–2016 Comprehensive Exams  
2016–2019 Dissertation

**Kenia Vanessa Rodríguez**  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

**Louis Benjamin Rolsky, PhD**  
2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral

### **Duke Divinity School, North Carolina**

**Matthew Arakaky**  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

**Michael Remedios Grigoni, PhD**  
2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral  
2016–2017 Comprehensive Exams

**Alberto Alexander La Rosa Rojas**  
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
2019–2020 Proposal and Research  
2020–2021 Dissertation

**Tito Madrazo, PhD**  
2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams  
2016–2018 Dissertation

**Adam Adrian Perez, PhD**  
2019–2020 Proposal and Research  
2020–2021 Dissertation

**Alma Tinoco Ruiz**  
2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
2019–2020 Proposal and Research  
2020–2021 Dissertation

### **Fuller Theological Seminary, California**

**Mario Eduardo Alas-Escalante**  
2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams

**Moisés López, PhD**  
2010–2011 Comprehensive Exams  
2013–2014 Dissertation

**Esteban Gabriel Miranda**  
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
2019–2020 Proposal and Research

**Martín Rodríguez, PhD**  
2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral  
2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
2019–2020 Dissertation

**Karla Stevenson**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

**René Velarde**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

### **Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Illinois**

**Patricia Bonilla**  
2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research

**Noé Danilo Godoy G.**  
2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral  
2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2017 Comprehensive Exams

**Evelmyn Ivens**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

**Emanuel Padilla**  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

**Elyssa Salinas**  
2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral  
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral  
2018–2022 Comprehensive Exams

**Manuel Villalobos, PhD**  
2009–2010 Dissertation

### **Graduate Theological Union, California**

**José E. Balcells, PhD**  
2009–2010 First-Year Doctoral  
2010–2011 Second-Year Doctoral  
2011–2012 Comprehensive Exams  
2014–2015 Dissertation

**Lauren Frances Guerra, PhD**  
2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral  
2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral  
2013–2014 Comprehensive Exams  
2015–2016 Dissertation

**Jennifer A. Fernández, PhD**  
2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral  
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
2019–2020 Dissertation

**Yohana Junker, PhD**  
2018–2019 Dissertation

**Geoffrey Nelson-Blake**  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams

**Jennifer Christine Owens-Jofré, PhD**  
2017–2018 Dissertation

**Eric Joseph Sias, PhD**  
2019–2020 Proposal and Research  
2020–2021 Dissertation

**Pamela J. Stevens**  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

### **Harvard Divinity School, Massachusetts**

**Janan Delgado Dassum**  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research

**Adrián Emmanuel Hernández Acosta**  
2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral  
2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral

**Roberto Mata, PhD**  
2013–2014 Dissertation

**Luan Henrique Gomes Ribeiro**  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

### **Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver, Colorado**

**Kristian Díaz**  
2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral  
2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral

**Néstor A. Gómez-Morales, PhD**  
2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Dissertation

**Rodolfo J. Hernández-Díaz, PhD**  
2008–2009 First-Year Doctoral

**Robyn Henderson-Espinoza, PhD**  
2010–2011 Second-Year Doctoral  
2012–2013 Dissertation

**Jared Vázquez**  
2013–2014 Second-Year Doctoral

### **Luther Seminary, Minnesota**

**Andrés Roberto Albertsen**  
2015–2019 Dissertation

### **Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Illinois**

**Lydia Hernández-Marcial, PhD**  
2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2020 Dissertation

**Francisco Herrera**  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**Jonathan Pimentel-Chacón, PhD**  
2010–2011 First-Year Doctoral  
2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral  
2012–2013 Comprehensive Exams  
2013–2014 Dissertation

**Eddie A. Rosa Fuentes**  
2020–2022 Comprehensive Exams

**Crystal Silva-McCormick**  
2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

### **The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**Leila M. Ortiz**  
2014–2016 Dissertation

### **Oblate School of Theology, Texas**

**Raquel Feagins**  
2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral  
2016–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
2019–2021 Proposal and Research

**Nathan Aaron García**  
2017–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**Julieta Sánchez**  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

### **Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey**

**Jared Alcántara, PhD**  
2011–2012 Comprehensive Exams  
2012–2014 Dissertation

**Rubén Arjona-Mejía, PhD**  
2014–2015 Comprehensive Exams  
2015–2017 Dissertation

**Guilherme Brasil de Souza**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

**Stacy Guinto-Salinas**  
2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2022 Comprehensive Exams

**Chauncy Diego Francisco Handy**  
2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**Francisco Javier Peláez-Díaz**  
2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams  
2016–2019 Dissertation

**Stephanie Mota Thurston, PhD**  
2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral  
2016–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
2019–2020 Dissertation

### **Southern Methodist University, Texas**

**Fellipe do Vale, PhD**  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Dissertation

**Matthew Esquivel**  
2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**Ángel J. Gallardo, PhD**  
2012–2013 First-Year Doctoral  
2013–2014 Second-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Comprehensive Exams  
2015–2017 Dissertation

**Julián Andrés González, PhD**  
2010–2011 First-Year Doctoral  
2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral  
2012–2013 Comprehensive Exams  
2013–2015 Dissertation

**Chance Juliano**  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research

**José Santana**  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2022 Dissertation

**Yolanda Michelle Santiago Correa**  
2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research

**Grace Vargas, PhD**  
2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral  
2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
2019–2021 Dissertation

**Noemi Vega Quiñones**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

### **The University of Chicago Divinity School, Illinois**

**Christina Llanes**  
2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
2019–2022 Dissertation

**Vinicius Marinho**  
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral  
2018–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2022 Dissertation

**Izak Santana**  
2019–2020 First-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams

**Héctor M. Varela-Rios, PhD**  
2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral  
2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
2019–2021 Dissertation

**Matthew Vega**  
2019–2020 First-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams

**Raúl Zegarra, PhD**  
2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral  
2016–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
2019–2021 Dissertation

### **Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, New York**

**Juan Carlos Morales, PhD**  
2019–2021 Dissertation

**Jorge Juan Rodríguez V., PhD**  
2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral  
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
2019–2020 Proposal and Research  
2020–2021 Dissertation

### **University of Notre Dame, Indiana**

**Daniel Patrick Castillo, PhD**  
2009–2010 First-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Dissertation

**Austin Mathew Cruz**  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

**Liam de los Reyes, PhD**  
2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
2019–2020 Proposal and Research  
2020–2021 Dissertation

**Carlos García**  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral

**Leo Guardado, PhD**  
2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams  
2016–2018 Dissertation

**Christopher Rios, PhD**  
2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral  
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
2019–2020 Proposal and Research  
2020–2021 Dissertation

**Ariana Salazar-Newton**  
2014–2016 Second-Year Doctoral

### **Vanderbilt University, Tennessee**

**Arelis Benítez**  
2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**Francisco J. García, Jr.**  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams

**Luis Menéndez Antuña, PhD**  
2013–2014 Dissertation

**Alexandra Rosado-Román**  
2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research

**Michael L. Sekuras**  
2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral  
2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral  
2017–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
2019–2020 Dissertation

**Lis Valle, PhD**  
2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2017 Comprehensive Exams  
2017–2019 Dissertation

**Jonathan Warren, PhD**  
2009–2010 Second-Year Doctoral  
2010–2011 Comprehensive Exams

### **Wheaton College, Illinois**

**Felipe A. Chamy**  
2019–2020 First-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**Gerardo A. Corpeño Nerio**  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Proposal and Research  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Dissertation

**David Zamora**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral



# HTI MEMBER SCHOOLS

Andrews  University

  
**BRITE**  
DIVINITY SCHOOL

  
CLAREMONT  
SCHOOL OF  
THEOLOGY

  
**Claremont**  
GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

  
**BAYLOR**  
UNIVERSITY

**BOSTON**  
UNIVERSITY

 DALLAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



  
**DUKE**  
DIVINITY  
SCHOOL

  
**EMORY**  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL

  
**FULLER**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

  
**Garrett**  
GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

 **GTU**



 **LUTHER**  
SEMINARY

 Lutheran School of  
Theology at Chicago

  
**OBLATE**  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



 **SMU** | PERKINS SCHOOL  
OF THEOLOGY



 **Wheaton College**  
*For Christ and His Kingdom*

 **VANDERBILT**  
DIVINITY SCHOOL

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO**  
Divinity School

**UNION**

# HTI CONSORTIUM

The HTI *En Conjunto* Model is a best practice, award-winning, comprehensive and holistic approach for supporting Latinx PhD scholars in religious and theological studies. Currently, it is offered through HTI Consortium member schools. Each member institution pays a \$6,500 annual fee to support one student at the institution and the infrastructure of the Consortium. HTI charges \$3,500 for additional students enrolled by member institutions.

The member institutions are listed in the brochure as well as on [htiprogram.org](http://htiprogram.org), where you will also find descriptive pages of each school's offerings.

## The How of the HTI Consortium

**Here are the opportunities that are supported for each doctoral student in the first, second, and/or comprehensive examination year:**

- Travel, lodging, and meals to the four-day HTI Professional Development Conference
- Honorarium and travel expenses for a mentor to support the student and to visit the student's institution
- \$750 to fund networking opportunities

**If the HTI Scholar is All But Dissertation (ABD), the funds are used to cover the following expenses:**

- Travel, lodging, and meals to the four-day HTI Professional Development Conference
- Travel, lodging, and meals to the Writer's Week
- Editorial assistance for the academic year
- \$1,000 to fund networking opportunities

In addition to supporting doctoral students, the HTI Consortium also works *En Conjunto* to enhance and advance the work of HTI. The Consortium's governing body is the Member Council, comprised of presidents and deans of the member schools. The Member Council gathers once a year at the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) annual meetings, to review and approve recommendations from the Consortium Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee is comprised of the HTI executive director, a chair, and five Latinx faculty members from member schools and/or HTI alumni. The Steering Committee meets twice a year to review and evaluate HTI's program and submit recommendations to the Member Council.

**Concurrently, HTI consortium schools are prominently promoted in the following venues:**

- HTI brochure (distributed to more than 1,000 individuals and institutions across the United States)
- *Journeys*, HTI's online newsletter (distributed to more than 2,000 individuals and also posted on HTI's website which has the potential to reach thousands)
- Institution page on the HTI website promoting its academic resources
- Yearly promotion at the HTI reception during the AAR/SBL annual meetings
- Promotion at all events and activities that the HTI executive director and/or assistant directors attend throughout the year
- Promotion at the Hispanic Summer Program

# HTI MEMBER COUNCIL & STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HTI is grateful to the 2021–2022 members of the HTI Member Council and Steering Committee for their dedication and service to the education of Latinx scholars.

## Member Council & Steering Committee Chair

**Peter Casarella** Professor of Theology, The Divinity School at Duke University

## Council Members

### John Reeve

Director of PhD and ThD Programs, and Assistant Professor of Church History  
Andrews University

### Douglas Weaver

Interim Chair of the Religion Department  
Baylor University

### G. Sujin Pak

Dean of the School of Theology  
Boston University

### Newell Williams

President and Professor of Modern and American Church History  
Brite Divinity School

### Jan Love

Dean and Professor of Christianity and World Politics  
Candler School of Theology at Emory University

### Tammi J. Schneider

Chair, Religion Department and Danforth Professor of Religion  
Claremont Graduate University

### Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan

President and Professor of Hebrew Bible  
Claremont School of Theology

### Victor D. Anderson

Director of PhD Studies and Professor of Pastoral Ministries  
Dallas Theological Seminary

### Melanie Johnson-DeBaufre

Interim Dean of the Theological School  
Drew University

### Edgardo Colón-Emeric

Dean, Irene and William McCutchen Associate Professor of Reconciliation and Theology, Director of the Center for Reconciliation  
Duke Divinity School

### Mark Labberton

President and Lloyd John Ogilvie Professor of Preaching  
Fuller Theological Seminary

### Javier A. Viera

President  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

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### Daniel Ramírez

Associate Professor of Religion  
Claremont Graduate University

### Luis Rivera-Rodríguez

Senior Scholar  
Associate Professor of Theology  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary



# HTI SCHOLARS' SUPPORT

Under the aegis of the HTI Consortium, member schools model HTI's *En Conjunto* unique collaborative enterprise by economically, efficiently, and effectively increasing the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latinx PhD students, and the number of Latinx faculty and leaders for the church and the world.

## To become an HTI Scholar, a student must be:

- Of Hispanic/Latinx descent
- Enrolled by a member institution

Once the criteria is met and a member school decides to enroll a student as an HTI Scholar, the member school begins to enroll students on the HTI website in November. Enrollment must be completed by April 30. Once the student is enrolled, the HTI staff will contact the student and request the completion of the student's online enrollment form on the HTI website.

## As an HTI Scholar, a graduate student receives the following:

- Participation in the annual Professional Development Conference, which offers hands-on seminars led by highly-experienced faculty focused on specific levels of study, including writing, pedagogy seminars, and career orientation sessions, among others.
- Assignment of a senior scholar as a mentor (for a period of up to three years) to aid the scholar in navigating the doctoral program, helping to expand the student's networking capacity, and collaborating with the student's advisor and faculty at her/his/their institution.
- Networking funds to gain access to other Latinx scholarly resources, allowing for opportunities to meet and work with future colleagues at national meetings, as well as providing support for the eventual publishing of the scholar's work.
- Participation in Wabash/HTI pedagogy workshops while writing their dissertations.

## HTI Scholars writing their dissertations also receive the following:

- Assignment of an editor to provide dissertation editorial assistance
- Participation in two Writer's Weeks
- Eligibility for a \$22,500 dissertation fellowship

At all levels, HTI Scholars have immediate access to an ecumenical and ethnically diverse group of scholars, editors, and academic administrators with varied backgrounds and interests.

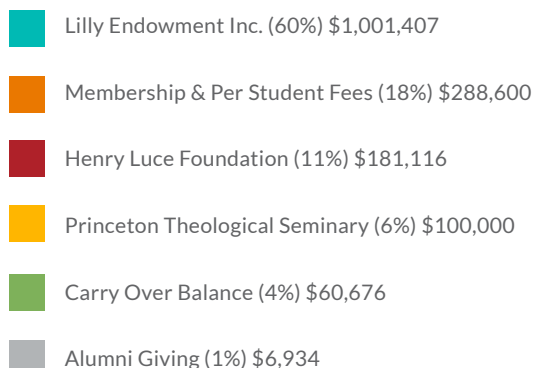
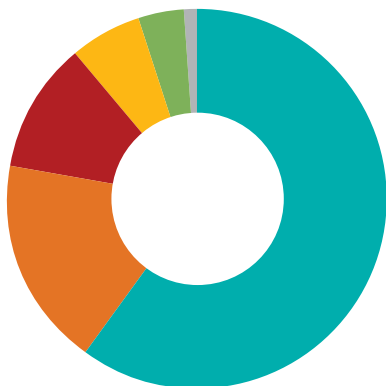
The HTI *En Conjunto* Model provides each Latinx PhD a comprehensive and holistic approach at navigating their PhD studies, while also preparing them to launch into successful and edifying leadership roles in the academy, the church, and society in general.



# HTI BUDGET 2019–2020

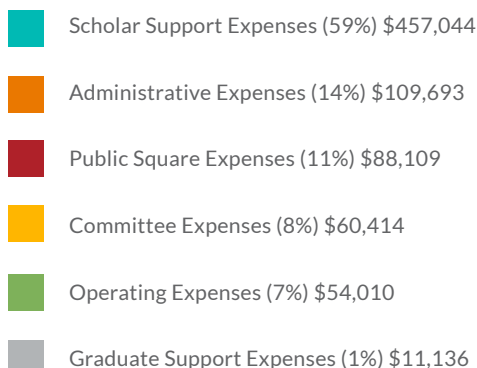
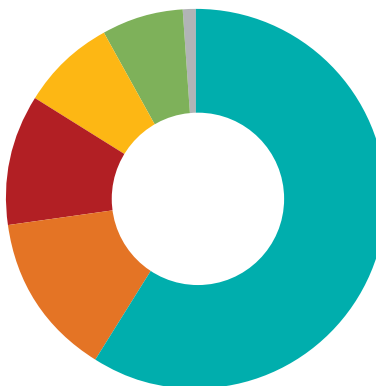
## INCOME

Total \$1,638,733



## EXPENSES

Total \$780,406



## Administrative Expenses

To provide a more accurate costing of HTI's activities, the salaries (excluding benefits) of the executive and assistant directors have been divided across various cost centers on a percent-of-workload basis to show a transparent articulation of program expenses.

## Incomes

Beginning 1 July 2015, the consortium fee structures was increased, and HTI commenced a programmed fundraising campaign to mitigate future financial uncertainties. Additionally, incomes related to the Lilly grant for the fiscal year are included.

## Excess Income

HTI operates on a non-profit basis, yet also strives to ensure that the program is run in a fiscally responsible manner. Excess incomes are placed into reserve accounts, re-invested, and used on an as needed basis in subsequent fiscal years.

## Overhead and Property

HTI does not independently own or lease real estate. Through agreements with Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS), HTI operates out of PTS real estate assets. Under the terms of this agreement, HTI does not pay rental costs or traditional overhead (utilities) costs. The estimated savings pertaining to this agreement are circa \$25,000 per annum. HTI is grateful for the continued support of PTS.

# HTI DONORS WITH GRATITUDE

The generosity of these donors for the past five years has contributed to the development and growth of Latinx scholars and faculty, making a difference in the larger landscape of theological and religious education.

## VISIONARY DONORS \$5,000 AND ABOVE

Henry Luce Foundation  
Lilly Endowment Inc.  
Princeton Theological Seminary  
Trinity Wall Street  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

## LEADERSHIP DONORS \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Melissa Wiginton  
Theresa Yugar

## FRIENDS < \$100

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Efrain Agosto  
Andres Roberto Albertson  
Sammy G. Alfaro  
Suzette Aloyo  
Cyndi Y. Alvizo  
Jose E. Balcells  
Patricia Bonilla  
William A. Calvo-Quiros  
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Andrew Dominic Ciferni  
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Andrea L. Stanton  
Grace Vargas  
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Adam Gilbert White

# HTI *EN CONJUNTO* ASSOCIATION

The Legacy of *En Conjunto* leadership beckons HTI graduates and friends to advance its mission by creating the HTI *En Conjunto* Association. This association will be intentional about uniting HTI graduates and its many co-leaders across the globe to improve the sharing of information, resources, and advancing HTI's mission and program.

The HTI *En Conjunto* Association (ECA) believes that to advance HTI's mission it must be inclusive and collaborative in its membership. The HTI *En Conjunto* Association membership is open to HTI graduates and professors within the HTI member institutions, non-member schools, and affiliated organizations.

Your membership gives you the opportunity to help shape the next generation of leaders in theology and religion, and provides you with these additional benefits:

- Opportunity to be part of the HTI Open Plaza Blogs and Podcast Workshops
- Discounts at future HTI events
- Promoting you as an HTI scholar on HTI's social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) as well as highlighting your accomplishments (Books, Lectures, Seminars)
- Opportunities to serve in a variety of HTI projects

## HTI *En Conjunto* Association Members Since Inception:

Lizette M. Acosta	Jeremy Cruz	Lydia Hernandez-Marcial	Ahida Pilarski
Efraín Agosto	Joel Cruz	Claudia Helena Herrera-Montero	Santiago Piñón
Andrés Albertson	Neomi DeAnda	Ann Hidalgo	Daniel Ramírez
Mariana Alessandri	Teresa Delgado	Jacqueline Hidalgo	Patrick Reyes
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Victor Aloyo	María Eugenia Fee	Yohana Agra Junker	Carla Elena Roland Guzmán
Xochitl Alvizo	Marlene Mayra Ferreras	Ramón Luzarraga	Miguel Romero
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Stephanie Arel	Ángel Gallardo	Roberto Mata	Leopoldo Sánchez
José Balcells	Alberto García	Peter Mena	Joanne Solis-Walker
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Margarita Benitez	Cecilia González-Andrieu	Catherine Osborne	Charlyn Valencia
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Joseph Collazo	Lauren Frances Guerra	Ibrahim Pedriñán	Teresa Yugar
Panayotis Coutsoumpas	Cheryl L. Green	Francisco Javier Peláez Díaz	
Karen Denise Crozier	Karen Hernández Granzen	Altagracia Pérez-Bullard	

## Want to become a member?

To join HTI *En Conjunto* Association visit [www.htiprogram.org](http://www.htiprogram.org) or email [HTIECA@ptsem.edu](mailto:HTIECA@ptsem.edu).



## JOIN HTI

HTI continues to grow a vibrant community of Latinx scholars. This year we have **61** students from the **21** member schools. We are grateful for all of our partners, and invite you to become one of them.

### Become a Member School

If you are part of a PhD-granting institution and would like to become a member of HTI, contact Joanne Rodríguez, HTI executive director, by phone at **609.252.1736** or by email at [joanne.rodriguez@ptsem.edu](mailto:joanne.rodriguez@ptsem.edu).

### Become an HTI Scholar

The admission process is determined by each member institution of HTI. Latinx students who seek to be HTI scholars must first be accepted to an HTI member institution's PhD, ThD, or EdD program in religion or theology.

Once the student accepts the offer of admission, and that institution designates the individual for enrollment as an HTI scholar, it will enroll the student on HTI's website. The student will receive from HTI a welcoming letter with a request to register online for the program.

Member institutions will enroll the HTI scholar on the website. The HTI staff will establish contact with the new scholar, who will then be asked to complete the enrollment process online by April 20 of each year.

HTI Scholars who are All But Dissertation (ABD) by November 2021 may be able to compete for an HTI dissertation grant. Please contact the HTI staff for information in October.

## GIVE TO HTI

Your support is vital to the work and mission of HTI. You can give by visiting [htiprogram.org](http://htiprogram.org) and click "GIVE" at the top of the page. Contribute one time or set up a recurring gift.

If you prefer to mail your tax deductible donation, please send it to:

Hispanic Theological Initiative  
12 Library Place  
Princeton, NJ 08540



# HTI STAFF



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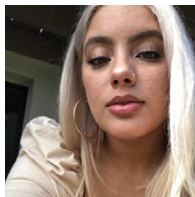


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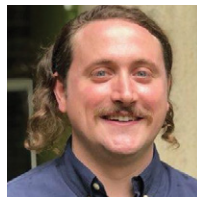
## Student Aides



**Carlos G. Acosta, Jr.**



**Amanda Calderon**



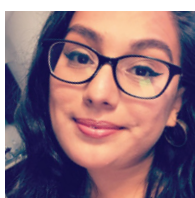
**Stephen DiTrollo Coakley**



**Isabel González**



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**Mavet Sarai Méndez**







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