

# Nurturing and Cultivating Latinxs to Serve in a Changing Academy, Church, and World

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE 2018–2019







Graduates

Life-Giving

SCHOLARS

Publications

Impacting

Researching

Witnessing

Leaders

Perspectivas

Journeys

PARTNE

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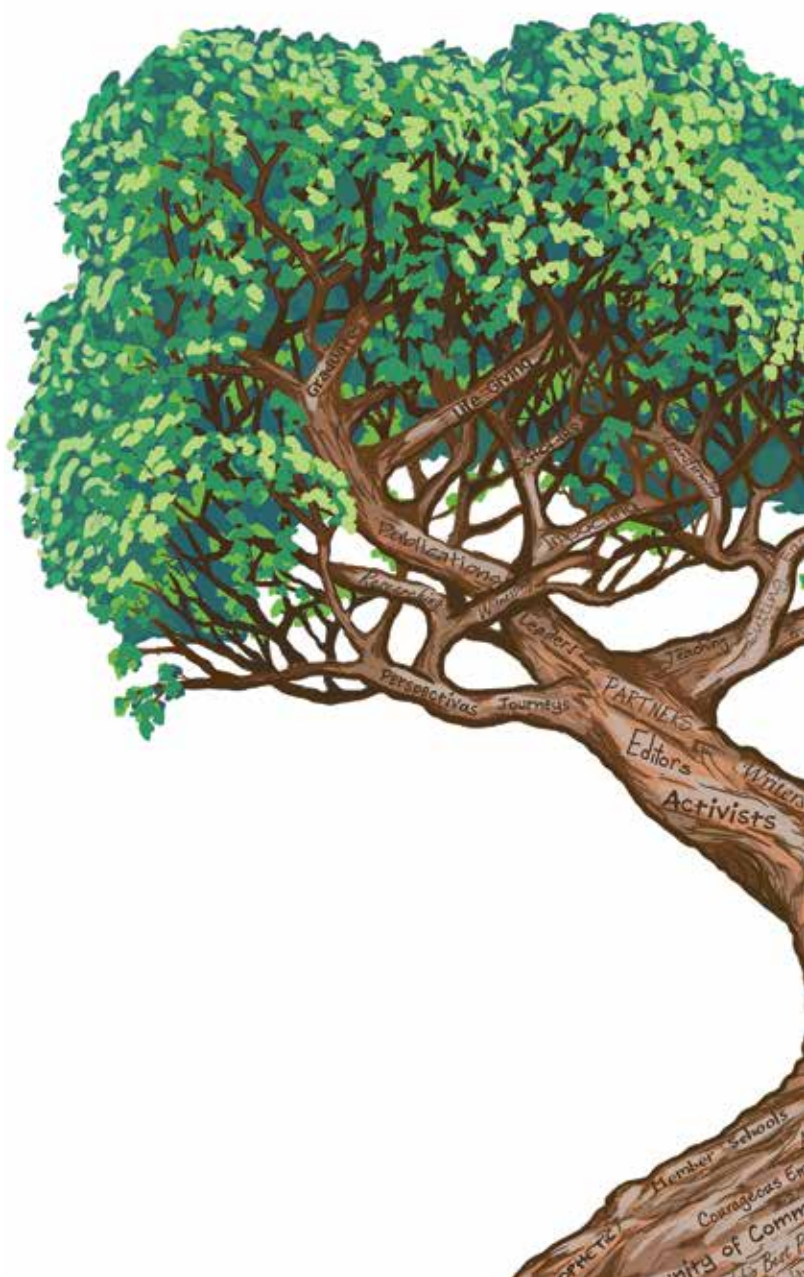


# Nurturing and Cultivating Latinxs to Serve in a Changing Academy, Church, and World

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE 2018–2019



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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 revolves 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 exchange of information, ideas, and best practices to engage the contributions of Latinx faculty and students in theological and religious education.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



For centuries, humans have carved their names, dates, or initials into trees to mark special relationships and events, and have returned years later to revisit the tree and their memories. This year, HTI is revisiting its tree and more than twenty-two years of memories, memories of the individuals and organizations who have created this nurturing scholarly environment for Latinx students.

From its inception, HTI established strong roots through the *En Conjunto* model, a collaborative way of fostering deep and long-lasting relationships with partners that include faculty, pastors, publishers, seminaries and universities, and foundations. After HTI received the 2010 *Excelencia* in Education's Example of Excelencia award at the graduate level, for its "best practice" model, several institutions across this nation wanted to know how they can achieve the same kind of success developed by HTI.

The steady and strong trunk of the HTI tree, formed by mentors, editors, advisors, faculty, and presidents and deans, developed into the HTI consortium. For the past ten years, this collaborative initiative with 24 PhD-granting institutions has grown strong branches that are life-giving to the member institutions and to the entire enterprise of theological and religious education. The steady contributions of presidents and deans of the HTI Consortium—together with HTI faculty, editors, and mentors—support and nurture the current and future leaders of academic institutions, congregations, and educational non-profits. Such contributions create new spaces for Latinx scholars to contribute to the broad and ecumenical religious and theological landscape.

The HTI Consortium branches establish and sustain new opportunities for current students and for HTI graduates. First, this year HTI's enrollment grew from 44 to 56 students. Second, HTI received a \$475,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to introduce the HTI Public Square app for Latinx scholars to produce blogs, videos, and podcasts. Lastly, thanks to a planning grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., HTI is shaping a pilot program for graduates in their first position, and for the first time in its history HTI is hosting the Church Leadership Formation conference, a conversation with a diverse group of denominational leaders on how to support Latinx scholars in theological and religious education. Through these new venues, HTI's *En Conjunto* model is branching out to nurture incoming and returning students and graduates.

Please do peruse the leaves of this brochure to meet HTI's up-and-coming scholars, and to see how HTI graduates in diverse contexts transform lives. I hope their stories will encourage you to join HTI's *En Conjunto* Association and become part of this collaborative work of watering the great HTI tree to support all communities in bearing fruit in the world. It is only *en conjunto* that you and I can continue to do this great work.

Blessings,

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

Joanne Rodríguez

# THE 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 97% 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 *iExcelencia* 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.

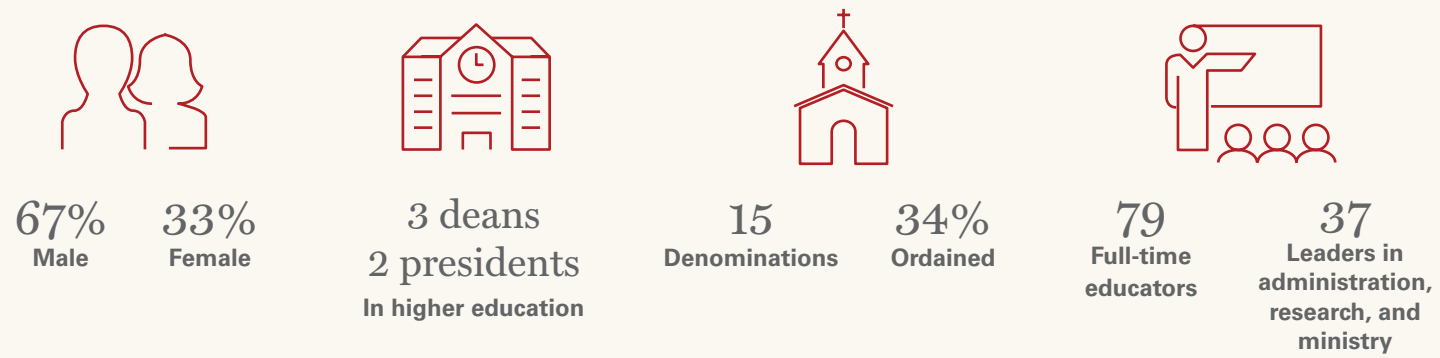
HTI celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a corporate gift of \$100,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and a \$1.5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., which provides ten \$25,000 dissertation fellowships to students yearly for five years.

In September 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 will support three new initiatives: The first, a gathering of Higher Education Denominational Leaders to discuss opportunities and challenges in serving Hispanic leaders' educational goals; second, introduce a Mentoring Pilot Program for First Call to nurture and address the needs of HTI graduates who are in their first position; and third, introduce a Mentoring Internship Program for current HTI Scholars to explore diverse ways in which they can utilize their PhDs to serve in diverse contexts. Additionally, in November 2017, HTI received \$475,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation to widen and enhance the audience of HTI's *Perspectivas* peer-review bilingual journal by building an app that will include access to blogs, podcasts, and HTI Talks, which will address key Latinx social issues.



# HTI AT A GLANCE

## WHO ARE HTI SCHOLARS?

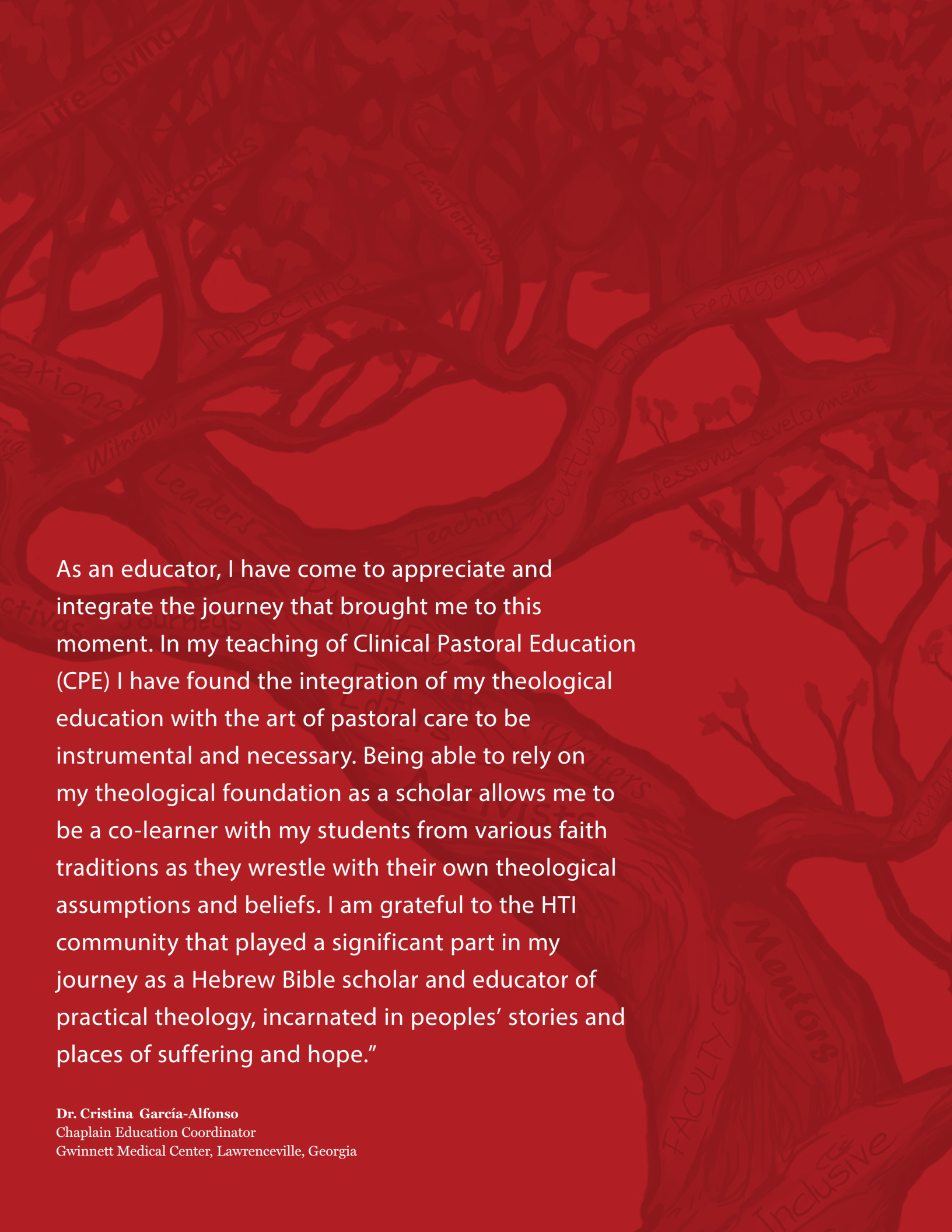


## WHAT HAS HTI ACHIEVED?



## WHERE ARE HTI GRADUATES NOW?





As an educator, I have come to appreciate and integrate the journey that brought me to this moment. In my teaching of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) I have found the integration of my theological education with the art of pastoral care to be instrumental and necessary. Being able to rely on my theological foundation as a scholar allows me to be a co-learner with my students from various faith traditions as they wrestle with their own theological assumptions and beliefs. I am grateful to the HTI community that played a significant part in my journey as a Hebrew Bible scholar and educator of practical theology, incarnated in peoples' stories and places of suffering and hope."

**Dr. Cristina García-Alfonso**  
Chaplain Education Coordinator  
Gwinnett Medical Center, Lawrenceville, Georgia



# 2018–2019 HTI SCHOLARS

## First-Year Doctoral Scholars

These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2018–2019 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 Bonilla's socio-cultural and religious imaginary 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 10 years of parish ministry experience in the United Methodist Church, Patricia Bonilla is compelled to research the role that the Church plays in effectively shaping leaders who are consciously integrated to 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.



### **Matthew Esquivel**

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

Matthew seeks to contribute to the field of the History of Christianity in exploring the early Church's notion of salvation, sharing in the life of God, and the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. This includes researching how the early Church understood the charisms of the Holy Spirit and how different communities incorporated such charisms into their regular assemblies. As one who has served in vocational ministry in non-denominational, multi-cultural, charismatic church settings since 2009, he also aims to serve the present-day Church in retrieving the positive elements of the tradition and theology of the early Church that would contribute to the understanding of what it means to identify as the Church today and to experience the work of the Holy Spirit in the context of diverse Christian communities.



### **Stacy Guinto-Salinas**

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

Stacy is a Mexican immigrant raised in the American South. Upon arriving to the United States, Stacy and her family found refuge in a local immigrant church where her passion for theology began. Stacy 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, border studies, decolonial and race theory, and displacement and gender studies. Stacy is 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.

**Alexandra Rosado-Román**

BA, Sacred Heart University / MA Evangelical Seminary of 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, reside in her burning desire to re-articulate ethical and moral socio-religious valuations around racialized women on the island. Alexandra is committed to offer refreshed lenses that promote clearer vision to march toward wholeness in the mist of a present context of territorial colonization, and colonization of power and gender. She received the Patricia Wickham Prize for Feminist/Womanist Scholarship granted by Drew Theological School, a prize that acknowledges the 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. 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 towards higher education in an attempt 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 criticize 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.

**Ramón Uribe**

BA, University of California / ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary / PhD, Dallas Theological Seminary (present)

To Ramón, proper theology comes from a strong, biblical foundation which is obtained only through careful exegesis. This entails studying the written word of God in its original languages, studying the historical and cultural backgrounds of the original audience, and identifying the genre of the biblical book. The biblical record is not an anthology, but a seamless, continuous story that reveals a loving God who reaches out to fallen humanity. Ramón's goal is to become a Bible teacher in academia and raise pastors, teachers, and missionaries. He sees himself in the English-and Spanish-speaking world encouraging others to pursue God through diligent biblical study.

**Second-Year Doctoral Scholars**

These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2018–2019 academic year.

**Mario Eduardo Alas-Escalante**

BTh, Latin American Theological Seminary / MDiv, Fuller Theological Seminary / PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary (present)

Mario is a Latino-Canadian-American born in El Salvador. As a PhD student in the field of intercultural studies, he is interested in cross-cultural settings. One of his strengths is observing the culture and finding an area where he can fulfill a need by serving as a communication bridge. Mario's PhD research is on female leaders' roles as carriers of the image of God within the mission of God. He works on his PhD with the hopes of teaching in the academy. Mario lives in San Diego, California, where he serves as a Pentecostal pastor.



**Arelis Benítez**

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

Aly is invested in the field of practical theology. She is the daughter of Mexican immigrant parents and is first generation Mexican-American. Her family's experience as migrants in a foreign land has influenced her curiosity, critical questions, and theological reflections about Latinx/Hispanic presence in the United States. Of particular interest is the impact of intersectionality in identity formation and the development of pastoral care responses for the Mexican immigrant community. Vocationally, Aly is a practicing healthcare chaplain who completed her clinical pastoral education residency at UCLA Medical Center in 2012. She looks forward to a future in scholarship and religious education.

**Gerardo A. Corpeño Nerio**

BTh, Seminario Teológico Centroamericano (SETECA) in Guatemala / MTh, Seminario Teológico Centroamericano (SETECA) in 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 Central American Theological Seminary (SETECA) in Guatemala City. Currently, he is pursuing his PhD in Theology from Wheaton College. His research focuses on the implications of Christ's cross for reconciliation in violent societies.

**Felipe do Vale**

BA, Calvin College / MA, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School / PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Since his undergraduate days, Felipe has been cultivating a passion for helping Christians to see how their own theological tradition grants them ample resources for understanding the most perplexing issues of their day. In particular, he has given his attention to gender, and his research is directed at providing a theological account of the concept in light of debates surrounding what gets labeled as 'essentialism' and 'constructionism.' Additionally, Felipe is of the mind that Christian theology is best done in consistency with the broader Christian tradition, so he aspires to put these questions of gender in conversation with what is perhaps the most influential theologian of the church, St. Augustine of Hippo. The outcome, Felipe hopes, will be to provide an Augustinian account of gender.

**Jasmin Elise 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 different religious and cultural traditions. Her Mennonite, Latinx *evangélico*, Catholic, and Jewish relatives; her years serving at a mid-sized charismatic church; and her internship at a Reformed church instilled in her a deep appreciation for the roles that practical and pastoral theologies play in shaping communities. Jasmin seeks to make theological education accessible to all communities, while highlighting the gifts and contributions that her communities bring to the larger world. Her current research interest explores how assimilating Latinx evangelical Christian communities can develop culturally competent and representative theologies and pastoral care practices to combat internalized and externalized white supremacy.

**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 is a dedicated Roman Catholic theologian who believes his call is to explore and incorporate contemporary psychological issues into a spiritual context within the Catholic faith. In particular, issues such as typological personality and multiple intelligences have provided deep human analysis that could benefit Catholic spirituality studies. Nathan's goal is to formulate a scientifically tenable spiritual anthropology. Moreover, he is a passionate teacher who has taught at the high school level and, in his free time, serves as Bible study teacher for his parish's young adults group.

**Chauncey Diego Francisco Handy**

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

Having grown up in a family that is both Hispanic (from South Texas) and Anglo, Chauncey lives at the intersection of two cultures. The hybrid nature of his upbringing combined with his interest in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament led him to pursue a PhD in biblical studies. He hopes to ask questions about the nature of inclusion and exclusion in the Bible through literary, theological, historical, and post-colonial means. A candidate for ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Chauncey seeks to be a scholar who bridges the gap between the academy and contemporary religious communities.

**G. Jorge Medina**

MTS, Urshan Graduate School of Theology / MAT, Fuller Theological Seminary / PhD, Claremont Graduate University (present)

Jorge is a Bolivian-born Canadian scholar whose academic research interests are in Hebrew Bible exegesis, and Messianism in the Second Temple period. Because of the revival of the contemporary Hebrew roots movements, his PhD will include evaluating the presence, theology, challenge, and growth of non-Jewish “Messianic” movements in Spanish-speaking congregations. He is excitedly working towards his ultimate goal of teaching and publishing at the graduate level, and inspiring other Latinos, especially Pentecostals, to an academic pursuit. Jorge is looking forward to dedicating his intellectual life, spiritual devotion, and social concern teaching Latinx communities around the world.

**Elaine Penagos**

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

Elaine is a first-generation multi-cultural Latina from Cuban and Colombian heritage. Her research examines Latinx lived religions, focusing on expressions of African heritage religions in the Spanish speaking Caribbean and the United States. Elaine’s work surveys the intersections of culture, gender, race, materiality, and identity in religions like the *Regla de Osha* as well as in other traditions in Latinx communities. Specifically, she is interested in the ways in practitioners utilize myths and narratives as avenues in order to explain issues of identity, phenomena, and religious practices. Methodologically, Elaine is interested in employing aspects of arts-based research methods, such as narrative inquiry and poetic coding.

**José Santana**

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

José aims to contribute to the need for historical scholarship on the interplay between Afro-Diasporic religions and Christianity in Latin America, placing this history within the context of the early modern Atlantic World and broader history of world Christian movement. As such, his research interests center around colonial Latin American thought and mission, Christian interaction with other religions and its surrounding culture, and the theoretical and theological interpretations of religious movement, development, and expression. As a student in the History of Christianity, he intends for his work to enlighten religious understanding and expression in Latin America, particularly amongst Catholics in the Caribbean.

**Seth Anthony Villegas**

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

Seth sees a deep need to tease out the theological and philosophical implication of new technological developments and scientific discoveries. He believes that theology can only be helpful as it corresponds to the world as it actually is. As a second-year constructive theology student at Boston University, he hopes to contribute to an ethical framework that can guide the direction that future technology takes humanity. His perspective is heavily shaped by his experiences living in Silicon Valley and his time serving in San Francisco’s Tenderloin district. He wants to explore how the Christian ethic of self-sacrifice can be a corrective action to reverse some of the problematic trends that have arisen with technological progress.



## Comprehensive Exam-Year Scholars

These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2018–2019 academic year.



### **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 theology of religions, mission theology, training of volunteer missionaries, and discipleship. His dissertation deals with the status of the outsider in a canonical perspective as an interested advocate for justice grounded in the fairness of God. The goal of his scholarship is 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, an ordained minister, worked for ten years in many places in his home country, Brazil. Currently, Eraldo works on a project, developed in partnership with professors from the Institute of World Mission of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, to equip lay people.



### **Liam de los Reyes**

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

Liam brings a longstanding interest in environmental thought, first fostered growing up in the foothills of Appalachia in western Virginia, together with a desire to better understand how philosophy and theology can help humans understand the sources of normativity in their interactions with non-human creatures and ecosystems. After spending five years between small-scale sustainable forestry and green building and design, he returned to graduate school to pursue questions not just about value in non-human natures but about the responsibility of humans to respond to such value. He hopes that engaging Aristotelian biology and environmental hermeneutics from a rich theological perspective can provide resources to support and expand ethical positions that provide concrete guidance for human interactions with the non-human world.



### **Raquel Feagins**

BA, Harvard College / MDiv, Perkins School of Theology / PhD, Oblate School of Theology (present)

As a PhD student in the field of Christian spirituality, Raquel is interested in the deep and rich Judeo-Christian traditions in prayer, mysticism, and spiritual guidance. An ordained elder in the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Raquel currently serves as Associate Pastor and Minister of Discipleship at La Trinidad United Methodist Church, a historic Mexican-American congregation in San Antonio, Texas. Raquel's interests include the spirituality of the Gospel of John, the medieval mystic Julian of Norwich, Latinx spiritualities, and women and the priesthood. As a pastor and scholar, Raquel is committed to continued engagement with the life of the Church and to nurturing the next generation of leaders.



### **Iriann Marie Hausted**

BA, University of Puerto Rico / MA, Andrews University / PhD, Andrews University (present)

Iriann understands her calling to education as a life-long journey of intellectual awakening that encourages all parts involved to grow in knowledge, critical thinking, and charitable understanding of the other. In the future, she would like to focus her practice on facilitating such journey of intellectual awakening for individuals and communities that have systemically lacked this. HTI is a crucial part of her efforts because it provides a space in which she becomes confident about fulfilling her calling while remaining true to her Puerto Rican identity. Her current focus in theological and Adventist studies aims to broadly examine contemporary theological interpretation of the Christian Scriptures and its relationship to authoritative structures within ecclesial contexts.



**Alberto Alexander La Rosa Rojas**

BA, Trinity Christian College / MDiv, Western Theological Seminary / ThD, Duke Divinity School (present)

Alberto emigrated with his family from Peru to the United States in 2001. His experience as an immigrant informs and drives his academic pursuits, which wrestle with the ethical and theological dimensions of immigration. Broadly speaking, Alberto is interested in giving a rich account of the way immigrants think about home and belonging. He is also interested in giving an account of how immigrants, particularly undocumented immigrants, can flourish through virtuous living in light of the political, economic, and social conditions that constitute their experience. He hopes to teach and to continue to be a voice in future policies regarding immigration.



**Vinicius Marinho**

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

Vinicius reflects constructively on theological and historical questions attentive to race, culture, and Christianity in the Atlantic World. His research agenda evolves from (a) the cultural histories of modern concepts of race and their catalogues of practices, to (b) the geneses of new varieties of the Christian imagination across the Black Atlantic, to (c) how the outworking of such histories and traditions may evince today a new form of diasporan consciousness. A former constitutional lawyer from Rio de Janeiro, Vinicius compares racial, cultural, and religious formations in Brazil, the United States, and West and Central Africa. He utilizes tools derived from contemporary models of theology (especially black and other third-world expressions), contemporary theories of race, and Atlantic cultural histories.



**Esteban Gabriel Miranda**

BMin, International Faculty of Theology / MATM, Fuller Theological Seminary / PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary (present)

Esteban was born and raised in Uruguay. From a young age, he challenged the theological status quo of the Pentecostal church his father pastored. Never fully satisfied with answers to the questions regarding Uruguay being forced to incorporate North American ways of reading the Bible as the “only” way to understand Scripture, he sought to promote approaching the Bible through Uruguayan eyes. Now, as a doctoral student he continues to aim at the same target: to decolonize exegesis and decentralize hermeneutics.



**Carina O. Prestes**

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

Originally from southern Brazil, Carina has had 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 participated in archaeological excavations of a Paleo-Christian site in Sicily, Italy. The exposition to the early Christian world through archaeology raised in her the awareness of the gap in scholarship about women's role in Early Christianity. Then it 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.



The background of the page features a stylized illustration of a tree with a dense canopy of leaves. Several of the tree's branches are highlighted and labeled with academic or professional terms in a handwritten-style font. The labels include 'Cutting Edge Pedagogy', 'Professional Development', 'Innovation', 'Latinx', and 'New Voices'.

“Over the past year, I have done trainings on Catholic Teaching and Immigration; Privilege and Leadership; and Responding to Our Callings with the use of Latinx theologies as the foundation. I have done these trainings through the Hope Border Institute in El Paso, Texas and the Hispanic Ministry Training at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas. I am also a member of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative Racial/ Immigrant Justice team which is a group of people who network with others to attend to various parts necessary for racial justice and immigrant justice. I can say that this work continues to inspire me as a scholar because I see the many people hungry to learn more about Christianity, especially toward social transformation. My short time spent with community partners feeds my desire to keep changing structures.”

**Dr. Neomi DeAnda**

Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
University of Dayton

**Christopher C. Rios**

BA, University of North Texas / MTS, Southern Methodist University / PhD, University of Notre Dame (present)

Christopher's research lies at the intersection between systematic theology and phenomenology of art, as he works to develop a constructive philosophical theology of art through a serious engagement with the philosophies of music and art, aesthetics, and twentieth-century Catholic thought. An organist by trade, he sees the continued need for a fuller Christian theology of art that takes seriously both the musical and the visual arts. He hopes that his work can reveal the significant contributions the musical and visual fine arts offer to Catholic systematic theology.

**Jorge Juan Rodríguez V.**

BA, Gordon College / MA, Union Theological Seminary / MPhil, Union Theological Seminary (present) / PhD, Union Theological Seminary (present)

Jorge is the son of Puerto Rican migrants who instilled in him pride for his heritage and a critical eye toward the reality of diaspora. His experiences growing up—forged, in part, by being *ni de aquí ni de allá* (from neither here nor there) linguistically, culturally, nationally, and religiously—pushed him to pursue an interdisciplinary study of religion as an attempt to make sense of the world he and many like him inhabit. As a result, his scholarship seeks to illuminate how social systems that yield marginalization and displacement have historically used religion to elevate some people over others. His hope is that engaging religion in this way will uplift marginalized voices and challenge religious narratives in the academy.

**Alma Tinoco Ruiz**

BS, Centro de Estudios Superiores del Estado de Sonora (CESUES), Mexico / BS, North Carolina State University / MDiv, Duke Divinity School / ThD, Duke Divinity School (present)

Alma is a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church. Throughout her ministry, she has witnessed how preaching that fails to acknowledge and validate the needs of the people and their concrete circumstances have neglected and harmed them. Influenced by the way Archbishop Romero responded through his sermons to the pastoral care needs of the people of El Salvador, through her research, Alma is exploring how preachers can respond to the people's needs by integrating homiletics and pastoral care. She would like to combine her parish experience with her theological education to teach how to use preaching as an empowering and liberating tool for pastoral care, by acknowledging people's sociological, biological, psychological, and spiritual needs.

**Elyssa Salinas**

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 every body 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.

**Michael L. Sekuras**

BS, Bob Jones University / MDiv, Westminster Theological Seminary / ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary / PhD, Vanderbilt University (present)

Michael works in the literature of the Hebrew Bible and the ancient Near East, focusing on texts about human suffering and the narratives surrounding them. He traces the historical development and changes of key philosophical and psychological concepts like the body, consciousness, and the soul, alongside receptions of the biblical text and their socio-political effects in the present.

## Proposal and Research Scholars

These scholars have passed comprehensive exams and are at the early stages of the dissertation.



### 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 history of religion. His special interest is the relationship between Jewish and Christian beliefs and the development of 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 deals with agents of contamination of the Sanctuary in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Church Fathers.



### Diana E. Rodríguez Click

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

The promise of dialogue across global theological perspectives inspires Diana's passion for theological studies. Diana explores how such discourse presents creative possibilities for Christian conceptions of theological epistemologies, divine revelations, theological anthropologies, and pneumatologies. In particular, her research focuses upon insights which the religious histories of Puerto Rican women, families, and communities offer for such theological notions. Drawing upon Global and Latinx theologies and histories, Diana views the academic classroom as a transformative setting where learning awakens students to diverse sites and expressions of divine presence. Through such work, Diana aims to nurture an ethics of hospitality towards difference, a critical matter for Christian theological scholarship and ecclesial communities.



### Janan Delgado Dassum

BA, American University in Cairo / MA, New York University / PhD, Harvard University (present)

Janan was born and raised in Ecuador. Her formative years as a young Muslim Ecuadorian woman growing up in a Catholic-majority country continue to inform the questions she explores academically today: How do religious minorities navigate and negotiate belongingness, community formation, and the pursuit of faith? How do Western pious subjects, who inherit and embody multiple sacred and secular traditions at once, realize their imperative spiritual and social needs in their ever-changing world? What is the place of women and children in Muslim spirituality and law, and how do modern Muslim women relate to it? Janan is passionate about teaching and about bringing academic conversations to life within her own Muslim community and within communities of faith beyond.



### Jennifer A. Fernández

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

As a Cuban-American, Jennifer values diversity in education. She grew up in Miami, Florida, where she was inspired to see her ethnic identity reflected in her teachers. That empowered her to believe that she too, could one day be a confident Latina leader and educator. Hoping to teach in the academy, Jennifer wants theological students who come after her to be welcomed into an educational landscape that honors their lived experience. Jennifer's work uses social theory and post-modern philosophy to examine the theological statements that are made when race, gender, or nationality are used to "other" the Divine's creation.



**Christina Llanes**

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

Christina is studying the history of Christianity, and her research focuses on divine (im)passibility in the works of Angela of Foligno and Marguerite Porete. She argues that they represent one of the first intellectual movements towards a theology of divine passibility. The goal of her scholarship is to focus on figures that have been historically marginalized by scholars or not taken seriously as the complex theologians that they are. She also seeks to redeem theologies and rituals, many practiced in Latin America, that emphasize the suffering of the God-Man. Often criticized as macabre or masochistic, the theologies of Angela of Foligno and Marguerite Porete can redeem these practices and reveal their theological and spiritual value.

**Mónica Isabel Rey**

BA, Virginia Commonwealth University / MA, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary / STM, 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 times 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 asking: What does it mean for me to be Latinx?

**Martín Rodríguez**

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

Martín is in his fourth year of doctoral studies in missiology. He is particularly interested in sustainable models for missional leadership formation in multigenerational Hispanic churches in the United States. His research seeks to address the unique leadership formation challenges faced by aspiring Hispanic pastors and lay leaders in at-risk underserved urban communities where the vast majority of US-born Latinxs live. Martín ministered in house churches in central and northern China for five years and is currently serving as minister of the Hollywood Church of Christ in Los Angeles, California.

**Stephanie Mota Thurston**

BA, Scripps College / MAR, Yale Divinity School / PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary (present)

A fundamental concern for social justice has motivated Stephanie's desire to study religion, political theory, and ethics. She is particularly interested in exploring the relationship among education, moral formation, and justice. Her past experience as a middle school special education teacher, and her current work as a theological educator in an inside-outside prison certificate program, allows her to connect her scholarship and practice. Both of these experiences have influenced her to continue to study how education can contribute to the flourishing life of a community and how pedagogical structures and practices, like an inside-outside prison cohort, can cultivate virtues such as mutual recognition, which are needed to nurture just societies. Stephanie hopes to encourage American churches to engage theologically with these concerns.

**Héctor M. Varela-Rios**

BS, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez / MA, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico / MA, The University of Chicago Divinity School / PhD, The University of Chicago Divinity School (present)

Growing up in a Methodist church in Puerto Rico, Héctor was always intrigued by lived religion: religiosity beyond doctrine, ministries, or worship - religion within 'real life'. This interest, along with his day-to-day experiences with laborers in construction for over two decades, led him to the materiality of the Christian religion and how it catalyzes a more-concrete "theology from below", coming from and spreading through faith communities. Through research and education, and working among Christians and *lo cotidiano*, Héctor hopes to contribute to the study of religious expressions and their entanglements with culture and society in general.

**Grace Vargas**

BA, Rutgers University—New Brunswick / MDiv, Princeton Theological Seminary / PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Inspired by Rubem Alves, Grace sees the task of history as one of recovery and sacramental dissemination. Her work centers on the history of Christianity in Latin America, particularly the Protestant Church. Employing critical and postcolonial methodologies, she examines previously unheard voices from history, allowing for new histories to emerge. These new histories witness to the significant and unique ways in which the Latin American Church and its progeny, the Latino Church in the United States, have historically contributed to the story of the global Christian movement. Grace's vocational journey toward teaching and ministry in the church and the academy was ignited when she struggled to find herself and her community in the dominant Christian historical accounts.

**Raúl Zegarra**

PhB, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru / PhL, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru / MPhil, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru / ThM, University of Notre Dame / PhD, The University of Chicago Divinity School (present)

Raúl sees his role in the academy as connecting practical and theoretical concerns related to the struggle of justice. He does so by deploying different scholarly approaches including phenomenology and philosophical hermeneutics, pragmatism, political philosophy, and social theory. He applies these approaches to the study and creative development of the main themes of the liberation theology tradition, namely, the eradication of poverty, the struggle for social justice in all its varieties, religious experience as a form of liberation, the protection of the environment and indigenous peoples, etc. Raúl is also very committed to engaging non-academic audiences in an effort to give life to the ideal of the public intellectual. He does so especially in his home country, Peru, via his regular contributions to newspapers and social media.

## Dissertation Year Scholars

These scholars are writing their dissertations. Each will receive editorial assistance throughout the 2018–2019 academic year.

**Andrés Roberto Albertsen**

MDiv, Instituto Universitario ISADET, Argentina / MDiv, Aarhus University, Denmark / PhD, Luther Seminary (present)

Contributing to the strengthening of democracy, and to provide opportunities in the church for exercising the art of respectful conversation, were integral parts of Andrés's ministry as a pastor for many years in Argentina; which regained democracy in 1983 after a long and painful period of dictatorship. The same concern for the continuity and deepening of democracy is now inspiring Andrés's dissertation project on the connection between love and politics, founded on a convergent reading of two main works of Hegel and Kierkegaard. He expects to find the niche where he can participate in the education of leaders for the church, and especially Latinx leaders, who will be intentional about the public impact of their ministries.

**Maziel Barreto Dani**

BA, Oklahoma Baptist University / MDiv, Brite Divinity School / ThM, Brite Divinity School / PhD, Brite Divinity School (present)

For Maziel, cultural heritage, personal narrative, education, and exposure to various interpretations of the biblical text have led her to an increased interest in the role of churches in minoritized communities. As a native Puerto Rican, Maziel was exposed to imperial power and control and its impact not only on people but the lands which they inhabit. Her experience living under colonial rule is the heartbeat of her scholarship. Maziel's research is focused on the ways the Bible has been used to justify the acquisition and conquest of foreign land. In so doing, she challenges faith communities to resist colonial ideologies which oppress not only peoples but the lands which they occupy.

**Marlene Mayra Ferreras**

BA, La Sierra University / MS, Loma Linda University / MA, Fuller Theological Seminary / PhD, Claremont School of Theology (present)

Born and raised in southern California, Marlene is the daughter of a single-parent Cuban refugee mother. She was a pastor for fourteen years in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination and was ordained by the Pacific Union Conference in October 2012. Her interests are at the intersection of social science and theology. Her dissertation proposal presents an ethnographic study of indigenous female maquila workers in Yucatán, Mexico, and the strategies women use to resist violence and oppression. She believes spiritual care should assist women in identifying and developing their futures.

**Yvette D. Garcia**

BS, Texas Christian University / MS, Abilene Christian University / MDiv, Abilene Christian University / DMin, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary / PhD, Baylor University (present)

Yvette has been teaching people of all ages for many years. Her research area is Pentecostalism, and she is writing her dissertation on the Brownsville Revival. Yvette is pursuing a PhD to increase her understanding of the history of Christianity and to share her knowledge through her writing and teaching. After graduation, she hopes to teach in a college or Bible college.

**Yara González-Justiniano**

BA, University of Puerto Rico / MDiv, Boston University / PhD, Boston University (present)

Yara sees her work and scholarship as part of her vocation and passion toward theological formation and the work of social justice. She expects her work can form part of the theological dialogue and construction within her Puerto Rican community and Latinx communities in hopes that in the future it engages with areas outside of theology. Her research areas are liberation and political theologies, popular culture and collective memory studies, and postcolonial and Latinx theologies.

**Elmer A. Guzmán**

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

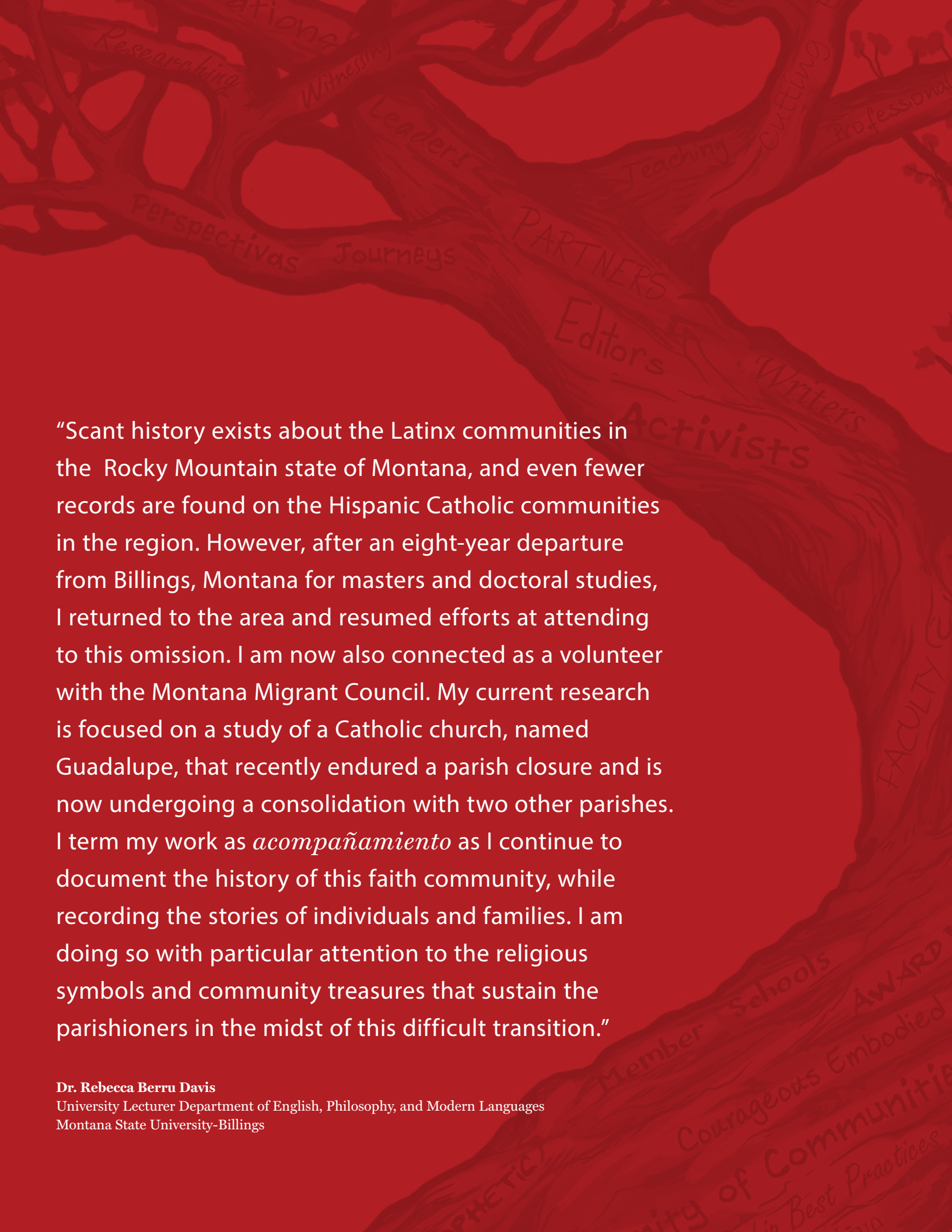
Elmer is an active teacher at his local Seventh-day Adventist church and has a passion for discipleship and theological education, with the goal to shape theology for the service of the church. The working title of his dissertation is “An Analysis and Comparison of the Missional Doctrinal Hermeneutics of Kevin J. Vanhoozer and Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, with Emphasis on their Notions of God, Eschatology, and Mission.”

**Lydia Hernández-Marcial**

BS, University of Puerto Rico / MDiv, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico / STM, Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York / ThM, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago / PhD, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (present)

As a Puerto Rican ordained minister, Lydia identified the need to interpret the Hebrew Bible from the Puerto Rican context exploring how its reading perpetuates the colonial mentality of its people. She is interested in wisdom literature, and her research explores how a postcolonial interpretation of Ecclesiastes contributes to the understanding of the social, political, and economic contradictions in the book. Her research explores the concept of resistance in the book of Ecclesiastes from the lens of Island Criticism. Lydia also studies the intersection of the Hebrew Bible and popular culture. Her main goal is to empower Latinx Pastors and church leaders by providing tools for an interpretation of the biblical text that can help in the transformation of the colonized mind.





"Scant history exists about the Latinx communities in the Rocky Mountain state of Montana, and even fewer records are found on the Hispanic Catholic communities in the region. However, after an eight-year departure from Billings, Montana for masters and doctoral studies, I returned to the area and resumed efforts at attending to this omission. I am now also connected as a volunteer with the Montana Migrant Council. My current research is focused on a study of a Catholic church, named Guadalupe, that recently endured a parish closure and is now undergoing a consolidation with two other parishes. I term my work as *acompañamiento* as I continue to document the history of this faith community, while recording the stories of individuals and families. I am doing so with particular attention to the religious symbols and community treasures that sustain the parishioners in the midst of this difficult transition."

**Dr. Rebecca Berru Davis**

University Lecturer Department of English, Philosophy, and Modern Languages  
Montana State University-Billings

**Yohana Junker**

BA, Universidade Metodista de São Paulo / MTS, Christian Theological Seminary / PhD, Graduate Theological Union (present)

Yohana, an immigrant from Brazil, is an educator, artist, and doctoral candidate who affirms art, imagination, and theological inquiry as belonging together. She is committed to liberative pedagogies that make education available to all. She is also dedicated to advancing the representation of Latinx scholars in the academy, particularly within the academic disciplines she works most closely with: art history, religious aesthetics, and eco-criticism, which continue to be predominantly populated by white male scholars. Her dissertation—“Unsettling the Landscape: Religious Aesthetics, Representation, and Appropriation in the Land Art of the American Southwest”—investigates how ostensibly secular works of contemporary arts from the American Southwest display theological vibrancy, colonial implications, Indigenous perspectives on the land, and positive subversive potential.

**José Francisco Morales Torres**

BA, Judson University / MDiv, McCormick Theological Seminary / PhD, Claremont School of Theology (present)

José is a PhD candidate in Comparative Theology and Philosophy. His dissertation—a multi-disciplinary, comparative study (philosophy, history of thought, theology)—explores the notion of wonder as a theological anthropological principle for theology, liturgy, and liberation. By reclaiming wonder and awe at the core of what it means to be human, this project ultimately is one of resistance in a world that has commodified some people as modes of production for the benefit of a few. José’s dream is to teach in a school of theology or seminary, while finding way to further support the work of the church in the world. José is the Director of Pastoral Formation at Disciples Seminary Foundation (Claremont, CA), working with ministerial students on issues of pastoral identity and vocational discernment.

**Michael Orellana**

BA, Peruvian Union University / MA, Peruvian Union University / PhD, Andrews Theological Seminary (present)

Michael’s native Peruvian culture is rich in history and calls his interest to discovering links between the Bible and archaeological records. Through his research, he expects to contribute to the understanding of the biblical narrative by making connections between the sacred scriptures and the cultural remains in the Middle East. His ongoing dissertation entitled “Horizons of Tall Jalul Pottery Assemblage in the Iron IIA-IIC in Its Historical and Geographical Context” intends to clarify the debate about the historicity of the united kingdom as it is portrayed in the Bible. He is a Seventh-day Adventist and would like to spread the knowledge of the ancient past of the Middle East.

**Francisco Javier Peláez-Díaz**

BTh, Theological Presbyterian Seminary of Mexico / ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary / PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary (present)

Francisco envisions his role in the religious academy as a broker, catalyst, and bridge builder. Being an immigrant himself and having worked as a pastor of immigrants in a multiethnic/multicultural congregation, he understands that there are many challenges derived from the immigrant experience, for both the immigrants and the receiving communities. Through his work in the church and his involvement in the civil rights agency of Dayton, Ohio, he helped to alleviate some of those challenges at multiple levels. He is convinced that through his work as an educator, church leaders and people of faith can be inspired and compelled to play a revolutionary role in addressing the challenges presented by the growing phenomenon of global migration.

**Erica Michelle Ramírez**

BS, Southwestern Assemblies of God University / MA, Wheaton College Graduate School / PhD, Drew University (present)

Erica finds that the Pentecostal churches of her childhood and adolescence forcefully shaped her perspective and values. Now, she is studying how early American Pentecostalism affected the character of globalized pentecostalism. Though Pentecostals are sometimes presented as a-theological, Erica interprets Pentecostal premium on experience as a powerful theological construct of the locus of the Spirit in *lo cotidiano*. Her ritual-symbolic reconstruction of Pentecostal revivalism uses postcolonial and feminist lenses to assess the gendered mechanics of spirit empowerment, in an effort to encourage believers' thriving.

**Rafael Reyes III**

BT, Vaughn College of Aeronautics / MA, Alliance Theological Seminary / MDiv, New York Theological Seminary / STM, Drew Theological School / PhD, Claremont School of Theology (present)

For Rafael, his scholarship and vocation stem from his upbringing within the interstices of Queens and Spanish Harlem, New York. In-between two worlds, he dwelled on the necessity of imagination that goes beyond the truth or reality of the world around him. Focusing on postmodern, poststructuralist, and process forms of thought, Rafael finds ways to harmonize his own work with the church, in helping imagine new possibilities by lifting marginalized knowledge—the knowledge of the people. This is his goal as he moves toward his life in academia, to engage students to develop their own knowledge, to find new solutions, and to imagine the impossible.

**Anandi Silva Knuppel**

BA, BS, University of Texas at Austin / MA Duke University / PhD, Emory University (present)

As a first-generation Mexican-American born into a Hindu-Catholic household in Texas, Anandi understood at an early age that scholarly categories do not always map onto the lived religious realities of individuals. Her immediate family is from Mexico and is neither Hindu nor Catholic, but both—a reality that she did not see as possible in the works she read early in her scholarly career. Anandi's work pays close ethnographic attention to religious practices as they are lived and how they are understood on their own terms. Her current research focuses on expanding the scholarly understanding of daily practices of transnational Hindu traditions through ethnographic, visual anthropology, and phenomenological methods to understand the sensorial worlds, performative agencies, and learned practices of devotees of Krishna.

**Lis Valle**

BA, University of Puerto Rico / JD, University of Puerto Rico / MDiv, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary / ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary / PhD, Vanderbilt University (present)

As an educator of homiletics and liturgics, focusing on embodiment and performance, Lis understands her role in the theological academy as nurturing preachers and worship leaders who listen to the needs of their congregations and respond in caring and loving ways from the pulpit and through ritual, addressing the issues that affect their communities, and using communication styles relevant to their context. Lis is committed to increasing the ways in which the church is part of the solution by breaking the silence in the pulpit, denouncing systemic evil, and announcing divine liberation for peoples of all ethnicities, genders, and sexualities.



"I believe that for our scholarship to be impactful and a true act of service to others, it must reach out to people beyond the physical space of the college classroom. Such commitment requires that we write in a way that is accessible to the general audience, and especially those who we claim we write about. Two words that I use to describe my own writing are: healing dialogue. My hope is that my new book, *Our Lady of Everyday Life: La Virgen de Guadalupe and the Catholic Imagination of Mexican Women in America*, Oxford University Press, 2018, provides a healing dialogue across generations of women about their experiences of growing up Catholic."

**Dr. Socorro Castañeda-Liles**

Assistant Professor Religious Studies Department  
Santa Clara University



# HTI SUCCESS

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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**

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**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**

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**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 Ysais**

Harvard Divinity School

## HTI PhD Graduates from 1997 to 2018

During the past 22 years, HTI has supported 116 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  
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

Inpatient Children and Adolescent Psychiatry Cincinnati Children's Hospital,  
Cincinnati, Ohio

### Mariana Alessandri

Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
The University of Texas-Pan American

### Sammy G. Alfaro

Associate Professor of Christian Studies  
Grand Canyon University

### Antonio (Tony) Alonso

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

### Xochitl Alvizo

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
California State University, Northridge

### Edwin David Aponte

Executive Director  
The Louisville Institute

### Jorge A. Aquino

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University of San Francisco

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Graduate Theological Union

### Rubén Arjona-Mejía

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Iliff School of Theology

### Enrique Báez-García

Pastor  
Forest Grove Spanish SDA Church,  
Forest Grove, Oregon

### José E. Balcells

Founder and Faculty Member Iodea Humacao, Puerto Rico

### Eric Barreto

Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament  
Princeton Theological Seminary

### Paul Barton

Director of the Mexican American and Hispanic-Latina/o Church Ministries Program  
Director of United Methodist Regional Course of Study School/Professor of Christian History and Missiology  
Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University

### Ana Bedard

Senior Manager, Executive Development  
AbbVie, Chicago, Illinois

### Rebecca Berru Davis

University Lecturer Department of English, Philosophy, and Modern Languages  
Montana State University-Billings

### Víctor Carmona

Assistant Professor of Latina/o Theologies  
University of San Diego

### Tommy Casarez

Independent Scholar

### Socorro Castañeda-Liles

Assistant Professor Religious Studies Department  
Santa Clara University

### Daniel Patrick Castillo

Assistant Professor of World Christianity  
Loyola University Maryland

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Independent Scholar

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Assistant 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

### María Teresa Dávila

Independent Scholar

### 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

### 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

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

### Rubén Dupertuis

Associate Professor of Religion  
Trinity University

### Daniel F. Flores

Public Service Librarian, Judith J. Carrier Library  
Tarrant County College

### Thomas Vincent Flores

Assistant Professor of Positive Human Development and Social Change  
Life University

### Renata Furst-Lambert

Associate Professor of Scripture and Spirituality  
Oblate School of Theology

### Ángel J. Gallardo

Independent Scholar

### Cristina García-Alfonso

Chaplain Education Coordinator  
Gwinnett Medical Center-Lawrenceville, Georgia

### Francisco Javier Goitia Padilla

Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Systematic Theology  
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

### Raúl Gómez Ruiz

Vicar General  
Society of the Divine Savior

### Alexander R. Gonzales

Assistant Professor of Bible Exposition  
Dallas Theological Seminary at Houston

### Julian A. González

Assistant Professor of Old Testament  
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

### Michelle González Maldonado

Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education  
Professor of Religious Studies  
University of Miami

### Cecilia González-Andrieu

Associate Professor of Theological Studies  
Loyola Marymount University

### Awilda González

Professor of New Testament  
Centro Educativo de Estudios Bíblicos

### Leonel (Leo) Guardado

Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology  
Fordham University

### 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-Espinosa**

Public Theologian in Residence  
Faith Matters Network  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Ethics  
Vanderbilt Divinity School

**Alberto Hernández**

Associate Professor of the History of  
Christianity  
Iliff School of Theology

**Juan Hernández, Jr.**

Professor of Biblical Studies  
Bethel University

**Abner F. Hernández**

Associate Professor of Historical  
Theology and Church History  
Montemorelos University,  
Nuevo León, Mexico

**Rodolfo Hernández-Díaz**

Independent Scholar

**Ann Hidalgo**

Acquisitions Librarian  
Claremont School of Theology

**Dennis Ricardo Hidalgo**

Assistant Professor of Comparative and  
Atlantic World History  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State  
University

**Jacqueline Hidalgo**

Associate Professor of Latinx Studies  
and Religion  
Williams College

**Felipe Hinojosa**

Director of Undergraduate Studies,  
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Texas A&M University

**Suzanne Hoferkamp-Segovia**

Adjunct Professor of  
Systematic Theology  
The Lutheran Seminary Program in  
the Southwest

**José Irizarry**

Vice President for Education  
The Board of Pensions of the  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**Michael Edward Lee**

Associate Professor of Theology, Latin  
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Fordham University

**Moises López**

Senior Pastor  
Lynwood Grace Church, Lynwood,  
California

**Nora Lozano-Díaz**

Codirector Latina Leadership Institute  
Professor of Theological Studies  
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**Tito Madrazo**

Director of the Hispanic-Latino/a  
Pastoral Initiative and Postdoctoral  
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Director, Center for the Study of Latinx  
Christianity and Religions  
Associate Professor of Christianity and  
Cultures  
Perkins School of Theology at Southern  
Methodist University

**Loida I. Martell**

Vice President of Academic Affairs  
and Dean  
Lexington Theological Seminary

**Hjamil A. Martínez Vázquez**

Teacher  
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**Roberto Mata**

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
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**Gilberto Medina**

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**Lara Medina**

Professor  
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Visiting Scholar at the Centre for the  
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Director of the Center for Religious  
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Instructor of Public Theology and  
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**Peter Anthony Mena**

Assistant Professor of Theology and  
Religious Studies  
University of San Diego

**Luis Menéndez Antuña**

Assistant Professor of New Testament  
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**Angel F. Méndez-Montoya**

Professor of Philosophy of Religion  
Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico

**Matilde K. Moros**

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

**Rubén Muñoz-Larrondo**

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies  
Andrews University

**Adriana Pilar Nieto**

Associate Professor of Chicano/a  
Studies  
Metropolitan State University of  
Denver

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Theology and Spiritual Action Program  
Head  
Associate Professor of Theology and  
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Our Lady of the Lake University

**Elias Ortega Aponte**

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Religions and Cultural Studies  
Drew Theological School

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Studies  
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Angeles

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Theology, retired  
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Dunnam Campus

**Altagracia Pérez-Bullard**

Canon for Congregational Vitality  
The Episcopal Diocese of New York

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Inter-American Adventist Theological  
Seminary

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Testament Interpretation  
Chicago Theological Seminary

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Catechist and Theologian in Residence  
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University of Texas with InterVarsity  
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Loyola Marymount University

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Professor of New Testament Studies  
New York Theological Seminary

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Ministries Program  
Director of United Methodist Regional  
Course of Study School  
Professor of Christian History  
and Missiology  
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Methodist University

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Associate Professor of Pastoral  
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Santa Clara University  
Graduate Theological Union

**Luís Daniel León**

Associate Professor of Religion  
in the Americas  
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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 2019****Andrews University, Michigan**

**Rodrigo de Galiza Barbosa**  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
**Eraldo Guedes da Costa**

2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
**Elmer A. Guzmán**

2017–2019 Dissertation

**Iriann Marie Hausted**

2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral  
2016–2019 Comprehensive Exams

**Abner F. Hernández, PhD**

2013–2014 Comprehensive Exams  
2014–2017 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  
2018–2019 Dissertation

**Carina O. Prestes**

2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams

**Flavio Prestes III**

2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams

**Abelardo José Rivas**

2016–2018 Dissertation

**Baylor University, Texas**

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

2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams  
2016–2019 Dissertation

**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

**Yara González-Justiniano**

2014–2015 First-Year Doctoral  
2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral  
2016–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2019 Dissertation

**Mónica Isabel Rey**

2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral  
2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
**Seth Anthony Villegas**  
2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral

**Brite Divinity School, Texas****Maziel Barreto Dani**

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

**Manuela Ceballos, PhD**

2013–2014 Dissertation  
**Diana Rodríguez Click**  
2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral  
2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research  
**Anandi Silva Knuppel**  
2018–2019 Dissertation  
**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

**Claremont Graduate University, California****Melisa Ortiz Berry**

2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral  
2015–2017 Dissertation

**Thomas Evans**

2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
**G. Jorge Medina**  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral

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

2017–2019 Dissertation  
**José Francisco Morales Torres**  
2018–2019 Dissertation  
**Rafael Reyes III**  
2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams  
2016–2019 Dissertation

### **Dallas Theological Seminary**

#### **Ramón Uribe**

2016–2019 First-Year Doctoral

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

#### **Fernando Linhares**

2014–2015 Comprehensive Exams

#### **Peter Anthony Mena, PhD**

2010–2011 Comprehensive Exams

2012–2014 Dissertation

#### **Erica Michelle Ramírez**

2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral

2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral

2013–2016 Comprehensive Exams

2016–2019 Dissertation

#### **Louis Benjamin Rolsky, PhD**

2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral

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

#### **Alberto Alexander La Rosa Rojas**

2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral

2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams

#### **Michael Remedios Grigoni**

2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral

2016–2017 Comprehensive Exams

#### **Tito Madrazo, PhD**

2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral

2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral

2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams

2016–2018 Dissertation

#### **Alma Tinoco Ruiz**

2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams

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

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2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral

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2010–2011 Comprehensive Exams

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2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral

2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams

#### **Martín Rodríguez**

2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral

2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral

2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams

2018–2019 Proposal and Research

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

#### **Patricia Bonilla**

2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral

#### **Noé Danilo Godoy G.**

2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral

2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral

2015–2017 Comprehensive Exams

#### **Elyssa Salinas**

2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral

2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral

2018–2019 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**

2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral

2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral

2018–2019 Proposal and Research

#### **Yohana Junker**

2018–2019 Dissertation

#### **Jennifer Christine Owens-Jofré**

2017–2018 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

### **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**

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**

#### **Andrés Roberto Albertsen**

2015–2019 Dissertation

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

#### **Lydia Hernández-Marcial**

2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral

2015–2018 Comprehensive Exams

2018–2019 Dissertation

#### **Jonathan Pimentel-Chacón, PhD**

2010–2011 First-Year Doctoral

2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral

2012–2013 Comprehensive Exams

2013–2014 Dissertation

#### **Crystal Silva-McCormick**

2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral

### **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

#### **Nathan Aaron Garcia**

2017–2019 Second-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

#### **Stacy Guinto-Salinas**

2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral

#### **Chauncy Diego Francisco Handy**

2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral

2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral

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2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral

2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams

2016–2019 Dissertation

#### **Stephanie Mota Thurston**

2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral

2016–2018 Comprehensive Exams

2018–2019 Proposal and Research

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

#### **Felipe do Vale**

2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral

#### **Matthew Esquivel**

2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral

#### **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

#### **José Santana**

2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral

#### **Yolanda Michelle Santiago Correa**

2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral

#### **Grace Vargas**

2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral

2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral

2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams

2018–2019 Proposal and Research

### **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

#### **Vinicius Marinho**

2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral

2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams

#### **Héctor M. Varela-Rios**

2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral

2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral

2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams

2018–2019 Proposal and Research

### **Raúl Zegarra**

2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral

2016–2018 Comprehensive Exams

2018–2019 Proposal and Research

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

#### **Jorge Juan Rodríguez V.**

2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral

2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral

2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams

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

#### **Daniel Patrick Castillo, PhD**

2009–2010 First-Year Doctoral

2014–2015 Dissertation

#### **Liam de los Reyes**

2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams

#### **Leo Guardado, PhD**

2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral

2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral

2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams

2016–2018 Dissertation

#### **Christopher Rios**

2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral

2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral

2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams

#### **Ariana Salazar-Newton**

2014–2016 Second-Year Doctoral

### **Vanderbilt University, Tennessee**

#### **Luis Menéndez Antuña, PhD**

2013–2014 Dissertation

#### **Arelis Benítez**

2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral

2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral

#### **Alexandra Rosado-Román**

2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral

#### **Michael L. Sekuras**

2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral

2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral

2017–2019 Comprehensive Exams

#### **Lis Valle**

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

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Princeton Theological Seminary

### M. Daniel Carroll R. (Rodas)

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Wheaton College

### Oscar García-Johnson

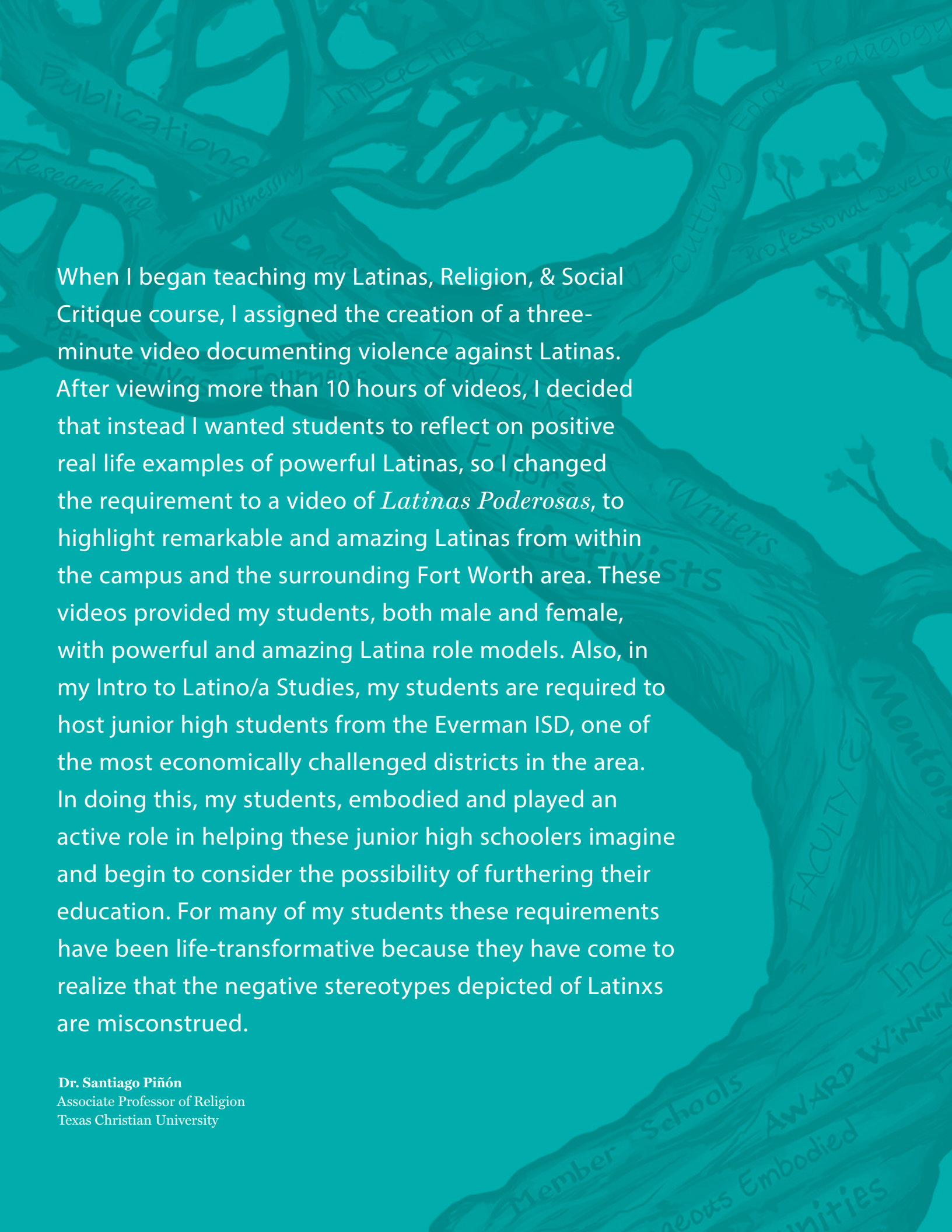
Associate Dean for the Center  
for the Study of Hispanic Church  
and Community and Associate  
Professor of Theology and Latino/a  
Studies School of Theology  
Fuller Theological Seminary

### Jacqueline Hidalgo

Associate Professor of  
Latina/o Studies and Religion  
Williams College

### Ahida Pilarski

Associate Professor of Theology and  
Special Assistant to the President  
for Diversity and Inclusiveness  
Saint Anselm College

The background of the image is a large, stylized tree with a thick, gnarled trunk and many branches. The branches are dark and spread out across the frame. Various words and phrases are written in a light, cursive font along the branches. Some of the visible words include "Publications", "Researching", "Witnessing", "Leaders", "Impacting", "Cutting", "Edge", "Pedagogy", "Professional Development", "Writers", "Activists", "Mentors", "FACULTY", "Schools", "Award Winning", "Communities", "Embodied", and "Inclusivity". The overall color scheme is a mix of dark teal and light teal, with the text in a light, almost white, cursive font.

When I began teaching my Latinas, Religion, & Social Critique course, I assigned the creation of a three-minute video documenting violence against Latinas. After viewing more than 10 hours of videos, I decided that instead I wanted students to reflect on positive real life examples of powerful Latinas, so I changed the requirement to a video of *Latinas Poderosas*, to highlight remarkable and amazing Latinas from within the campus and the surrounding Fort Worth area. These videos provided my students, both male and female, with powerful and amazing Latina role models. Also, in my Intro to Latino/a Studies, my students are required to host junior high students from the Everman ISD, one of the most economically challenged districts in the area. In doing this, my students, embodied and played an active role in helping these junior high schoolers imagine and begin to consider the possibility of furthering their education. For many of my students these requirements have been life-transformative because they have come to realize that the negative stereotypes depicted of Latinxs are misconstrued.

**Dr. Santiago Piñón**  
Associate Professor of Religion  
Texas Christian University

## HTI MEMBER SCHOOLS

Andrews  University

  
**BRITE**  
DIVINITY SCHOOL



  
**Claremont**  
GRADUATE UNIVERSITY



 DALLAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



 **FULLER**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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





# THE HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE CONSORTIUM

In September 2007, the board of the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) invited **18** PhD-granting institutions to Princeton Theological Seminary for the New Mañana Meeting to discuss the formation of an open consortium to advance the already successful work of HTI.

On November 17, 2007, 17 PhD-granting institutions established the consortium. Today the HTI consortium has **24** members committed to advancing the graduation and hiring of Latinx PhD students. These institutions understand why doing this work *En Conjunto* is the best way to increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latinx PhD students and increase the presence of Latinx faculty in the landscape of theological and religious education. They work together at exchanging information, ideas, and best practices in order to best address the needs of Latinx faculty and students.

## The How of the HTI Consortium

Each of the member institutions pays a yearly membership due of \$6,500. This fee is used to support the HTI *En Conjunto* mentoring model for a doctoral student at the institution.

**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
- \$750 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 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 Hispanic 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 1,800 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 director attend throughout the year
- Promotion at the Hispanic Summer Program

Under the aegis of the HTI consortium, the member schools are confirming their commitment to building an *En Conjunto* unique collaborative enterprise that is economical, efficient, and effective at increasing the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latinx PhD students, and the presence of Latinx faculty and leaders for the church and the world.

# THE HTI *EN CONJUNTO* MODEL

The HTI *En Conjunto* Model is a best practice, award-winning, comprehensive and holistic approach for supporting Latinx PhD scholars in religion 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.

## 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 can enroll the student on the HTI website as early as 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 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 \$25,000 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.

# 2016-2017 BUDGET RECAP

## INCOME

Total \$639,380



- Membership and Per Student Fees (44.98%)  
\$287,608
- Princeton Theological Seminary (15.64%)  
\$100,000
- Fundraising (25.84%)  
\$165,210
- Lilly Endowment Inc. (13.54%)  
\$86,562

## 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 July 1, 2015, the consortium's fee structure 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.

## EXPENSES

Total \$537,821



- Scholar Support Expenses (61.36%)  
\$329,992
- Committee Expenses (6.26%)  
\$33,641
- Operating Expenses (3.17%)  
\$17,080
- Administrative Expenses (29.21%)  
\$157,108

## 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 ONLINE

## **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 1,800 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.

Visit **htiprogram.org** to read current and past issues and to subscribe.

## **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**.

## **HTI Website**

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

- Financial information and resources
- Hispanic/Latinx faculty
- Hispanic centers and programs
- Library resources
- HTI graduates' profiles
- Bibliography for Latin American Religious Study (BLARS)
- Current and past issues of the online quarterly newsletter, *Journeys*
- Bibliography of monographs written by HTI graduates

## **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**  
[@hti\\_htic](https://twitter.com/hti_htic)



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

# JOIN HTI

HTI continues to grow a vibrant community of Latinx scholars. This year we have **56** students from the **24** 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, the student will receive a letter of invitation (by April 15 of each year) and may then register 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 2018 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. You will have the option to give to a scholarship fund and/or to an unrestricted account. 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

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