



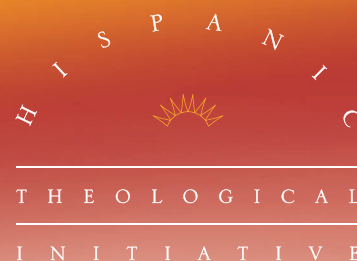
# HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE

2022-2023



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

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE 2022–2023



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## OUR MISSION

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

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



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



After almost two and a half decades of doing this vitally important work, what has kept me excited and energized about HTI's mission? Every email, phone call, or visit I receive from a Scholar who has accomplished a *logro*. These achievements range from passing comps, getting a proposal approved, defending a dissertation, and earning tenure, to publishing a first book, receiving an award, and becoming a dean or president of an institution. The annual brochure cover shines light on members of the HTI *familia*—now in its third generation—who are leading institutions in diverse contexts. This is a powerful cohort of individuals who are using their amazing gifts and talents to bring about life-giving transformation to the many lives they serve.

Like HTI's initial dreamers and visionaries, we stand in awe of God's faithfulness in our ongoing mission to cultivate Latinx PhDs for leadership positions in the academy, the church, and the world. This faithfulness is manifested in the many kindred spirits of HTI partners. *En conjunto*, we have brought this mission to life.

The brilliance and commitment of the HTI community was never more present than at HTI's 25th-anniversary celebration in November of 2021, when more than 400 individuals throughout the United States and the world gathered via Zoom, along with hubs at member schools across the nation. Even the pandemic did not deter us from showing up and celebrating God's faithfulness to HTI. Three generations of HTI graduates have been making inroads and charting new pathways that are inclusive, creative, and life-giving. On that special and historical night, HTI received a **\$7.3 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc.** to continue to advance HTI's work in supporting theological and religious education at such a critical time.

Now, if this *en conjunto* way does not show an **ADELANTE** spirit, amid a pandemic, then what will?

We counted many blessings by the end of 2021, starting with the 12 Latinx doctoral students who successfully defended their dissertations, making this cohort HTI's largest graduating class; to date, HTI has helped graduate **156** Latinx scholars! Currently, **95%** of HTI's recent graduates are employed in full-time positions in the academy, in the church, and in non-profit organizations working in theological and religious education sectors.

Open Plaza, HTI's platform to amplify the voices of diverse Latinx thinkers and scholars in the public square, added two special series of blogs and podcasts: *HTI25* and *TEBT*. Open Plaza's TEBT series was developed in collaboration with the *Theological Education Between the Times* project of Emory University's Candler School of Theology, an HTI member school. *Perspectivas*—HTI's peer-reviewed, trilingual, online subscription journal—released a phenomenal 25th-anniversary issue, contributing to a growing record of Latinx concerted work and HTI's living legacy.

Now in its 26th year, HTI looks with excitement to the future as we welcome the largest class of HTI scholars ever: **67** Latinx PhD students from HTI member schools! And, thanks to the Lilly Endowment Inc. *En Conjunto* grant, we will extend HTI's programming and resources to serve Latinx master's students who are considering doctoral studies! This grant will also support the establishment of fellowships for pre-dissertation doctoral students and novel internships with non-profit organizations through collaborative means. Additionally, this summer, HTI is launching the Professional Development Conference online for students not enrolled to HTI, thanks to the generosity of Trinity Church Wall Street. This is in addition to an in-person return of the conference for enrolled students, after two years of HTI programming online. Lastly, during the 2022–2023 academic year, HTI will host several lectures celebrating our silver jubilee. On behalf of HTI's wide network of contributing partners, I invite you to keep an ear to the ground for these events.

*Familia*, none of this would be possible without your continued support. HTI is what it is today because we do this work *en conjunto*. For this reason, I give thanks to every mentor, editor, faculty, partner, member school, and granting institution—we are grateful for you beyond measure. I trust that year 26—popularly known as the "Picture Anniversary"—be the glorious beginning of HTI's next 25!

Blessings,

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

Joanne Rodriguez



# HTI STORY

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

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

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

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

In 2003, HTI received an \$888,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., and in 2007, 17 PhD-granting institutions launched the HTI Consortium to expand the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latinx PhD students. Today the Consortium stands at 24 members. In 2010, HTI was awarded the Examples of *Excelencia* award at the graduate-level from *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 in 2016 with a corporate gift of \$100,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and a \$1.5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., which provided ten \$25,000 dissertation fellowships to students yearly for five years.

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

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

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

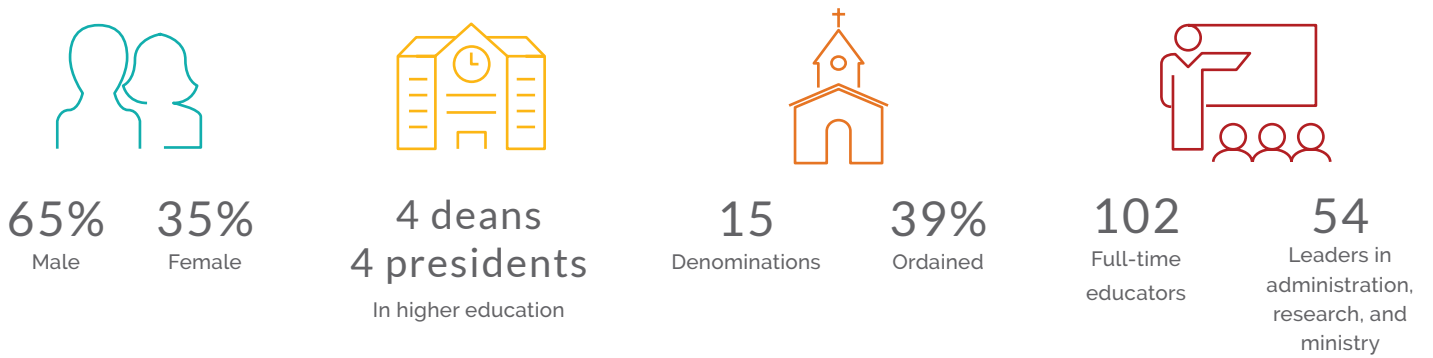
In 2020, HTI received a \$1.6 million grant, which allows HTI to continue providing ten \$25,000 dissertation fellowships to students yearly for four years. And in 2021, Trinity Wall Street granted HTI \$100,000 to digitize the Professional Development Curriculum for Latinx Faith Leaders and Scholars.

Furthermore, as your HTI celebrated its silver jubilee, HTI was awarded a \$7.3 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.! This grant allows HTI to establish a new program to assist master's students in navigating their journey toward PhD programs, provide fellowships to pre-dissertation doctoral students, generate novel internships with non-profit organizations through collaborative means, and much more.

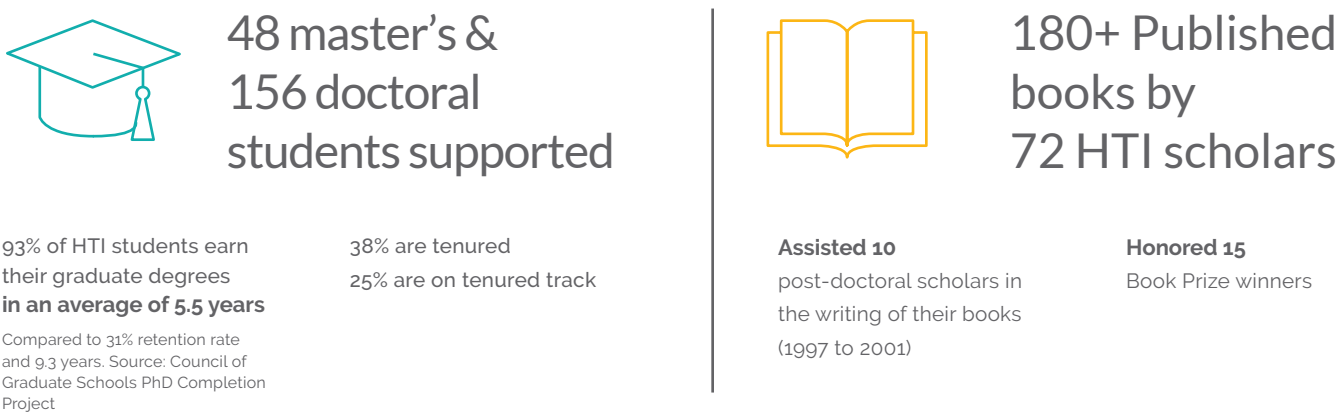
HTI holds Affiliate Member Status with the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

# HTI AT A GLANCE

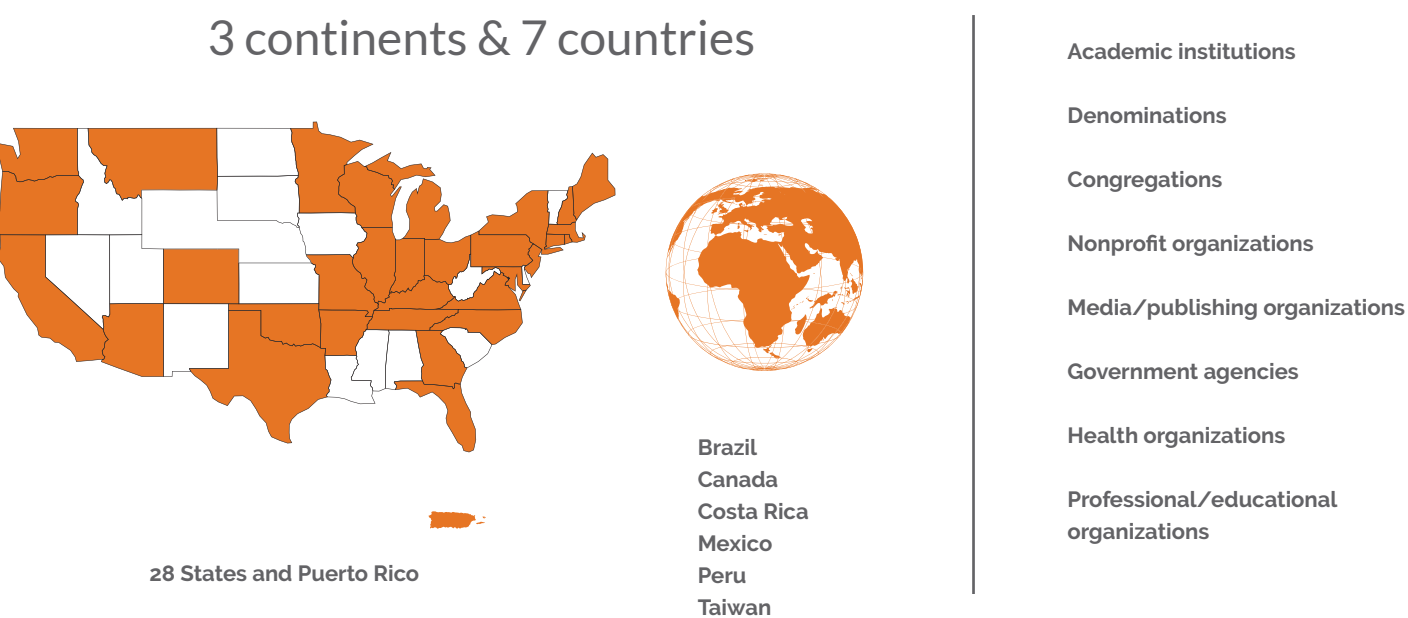
## WHO ARE HTI SCHOLARS?



## WHAT HAS HTI ACHIEVED?



## WHERE ARE HTI GRADUATES NOW?



# HTI SCHOLARS 2022–2023

## First-Year Doctoral Scholars

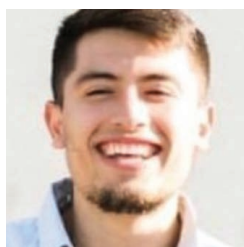
These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2022–2023 academic year.



### Amanda Rachel Bolaños

BA, Boston College / MA, University of Notre Dame / MA, Duke Divinity School / ThD, Duke Divinity School (present)

Amanda was born in Palm Springs, California. Her father's family is Guatemalan and her mother's family is Italian-Canadian. She is Roman Catholic and her research interests include offering a real, pastoral, and critical perspective in looking at the systematic success and harm of religion in communities. Amanda hopes to ultimately build bridges and create a culture of inclusivity between the Academy and parishioners through the practice and study of Catholic Social Teaching. She is the recipient of the George F. and Jean M. Bemis Award, given to a member of the senior class at Boston College for distinguished service to others. She aspires to invite her colleagues to enter into conversations about the present effects of a diaspora space, to offer a critical perspective of euro-centered aestheticism, and to shed light on those who have complex, beautiful, and multifaceted identities.



### Isaac Borbon

BA, Oklahoma Christian University / MA, Abilene Christian Graduate School of Theology / ThM, Vanderbilt Divinity School / PhD, Vanderbilt University (present)

Isaac was born in California to Mexican-American parents, both of whose influence inspired him to go above and beyond and seek a degree in higher education. Having a fascination with the Hebrew Bible and its interpreters, he felt compelled to articulate the profound ways in which ancient texts can have the ability to impact modern readers, especially with respect to theology and ethics. The Israelite narratives—especially the exilic and post-exilic stories—helped bring to light Isaac's understanding of what it means to be Mexican, and the struggle that his rich heritage of his Mexican-immigrant ancestors experienced while they were on the move to new territories. At Oklahoma Christian, Isaac was the recipient of the Zondervan Award in Hebrew Excellence; while at Abilene Christian, he was awarded the Center for the Study of Ancient Religious Texts Scholarship. His research languages include Greek (koine), Hebrew (classical), Akkadian, and Ugaritic. His academic interests lie at the intersection of historical-critical scholarship and reception theory studies.



### Luis Javier De Prada

BA, Barry University / MA, Barry University / PhD, Boston University (present)

Luis was born and raised in Cuba until his family decided to migrate to Miami, Florida in 2008. After graduating from high school, he decided to pursue a BA in theology and philosophy, and soon thereafter discerned to continue graduate studies in practical theology. For the past four years, Luis has been teaching Catholic Social Thought and World Religions at Immaculata La Salle High School where he has engaged the youth in and outside of the classroom under both academic and ministerial roles. Throughout his theological formation, Luis has developed a genuine passion for the arts, especially music, social sciences, service, social justice, and most importantly faith in its ever-enriching multicultural environment. Thus, he is very fascinated with the dynamics of orthodoxy and orthopraxis in the evolving journey of the Church in the contemporary world to which he hopes to dedicate his PhD studies.





### **Jose S. Diaz**

BA, Universidad de Montemorelos, Mexico / MAPM, Andrews University / MEd, Northern Illinois University / PhD, Andrews University (present)

Jose Diaz was born in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. He lived there until he was 15 years old. Then he moved with his mother to California where he studied English as a Second Language while enrolled in High School. After graduating from high school, he decided to go back to Mexico and study at Universidad de Montemorelos. After acquiring a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry, he obtained a scholarship to participate in a Transition to Teaching Program and graduated with a Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in English as a Second Language and Bilingual Education. Jose has 19 years of experience as an educator. His research interests include Johannine Writings, Matthew, and Mark. Jose is passionate about teaching the Biblical Languages, mainly Koine Greek, by using the study of Linguistics (Applied Linguistics/SLA) and hopes to make an impact in this area.



### **Heber Eduardo García Zárate**

BA, University of Montemorelos, Mexico / MDiv, Andrews University / PhD, Andrews University (present)

Heber was born in Chiapas, Mexico, to a ministerial family. He has been continuously involved in different aspects of Christian activities, but especially in youth ministries. While studying for his BA at the University of Montemorelos in Mexico, he had the opportunity to participate in a student exchange program in Brazil, where he appreciated the culture, language, and academics. Initially, he spent two years ministering in his home state and moved to Michigan to complete his MDiv program in 2013. After graduating, he returned to Chiapas to minister for another seven years. In 2021 he moved to Michigan to begin his doctoral program concentrating on Church History. Heber's passion is preaching about Jesus and his second coming, especially to the younger generations. Heber prays to be able to serve the church by providing opportunities to know Jesus better, using history as a powerful resource.



### **Leslie Garrote**

BA, Tulane University / MA, The City College of New York / MEd, Covenant College / MATS, Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary / PhD, Baylor University (present)

Born in St. Paul Minnesota to a mother from South Carolina and a Cuban father, Leslie has lived in multi-cultural settings and has been drawn to cross-cultural living for her entire life. After serving low-income urban schools as a teacher and administrator for fifteen years, Leslie began transitioning career paths by entering seminary in 2018. There, she developed a love and appreciation for Biblical Studies and exegesis but was most drawn to the history of Christianity, especially as it equips church leaders to help their congregations understand themselves and their social context. In 2001, Leslie spent a semester studying at the University of Havana, where she met dozens of new cousins who helped her refine her Spanish and learn the customs of the island. Leslie is looking forward to spending the next phase of her life studying in the Historical Studies division of Baylor's Religion Department.



### **Joryán Hernández**

BA, University of Florida / MDiv, Vanderbilt Divinity School / PhD, University of Notre Dame (present)

Joryán was born in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba, and immigrated to the United States when he was nine years old. His research interests are at the intersection of trauma, displacement, theologies of hope, and pastoral care. He is particularly interested in researching how to alleviate the trauma of displacement and present theologies of hope in and for Latinx communities in a holistic way that acknowledges the different lived experiences of immigrants. Born and raised Catholic, his religious identity is also mixed with Santería, an Afro-Cuban tradition that keeps him grounded and in touch with his ancestors. Within Cuban religiosity, both on and off the island, he sees theology as not only capable of alleviating trauma but also of actualizing radical changes to repressive conditions. He believes that a better future must be imagined, as José Martí said, "*Con todos y para el bien de todos.*"



### Amirah Orozco

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

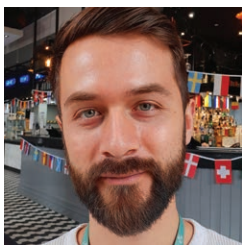
Originally from the Border between El Paso, Texas and Juárez, Chihuahua, Amirah is currently a PhD student with a concentration in Systematic Theology. She is interested in Latina *feminista* and *mujerista* theologies, especially ecclesiologies that come out of the perspectives of Latina *feministas* and *mujerista* thinkers. She was a Sacred Writes fellow with Commonweal Magazine and has therefore published in the magazine. The most significant piece was an adaptation of her Master's thesis on Las Hermanas, a Chicana feminist group of the 1970s and 80s. She has also recently published in the Journal of Interreligious Studies and New Horizons.



### Jacob Palma

BA, Christian Life College / MDiv, Urshan Graduate School of Theology / PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary (present)

Born and raised in Merced, California, Jacob is the grandchild of Mexican and Guatemalan immigrants. While taking regular ministry trips to Mexico during his undergraduate studies, he developed an interest in mission in the Latin American context. His travels continued throughout Central America before permanently settling in Uruguay in 2011. Jacob is an ordained minister of the United Pentecostal Church International and appointed by the same denomination as a missionary to Uruguay where he works as a church planter and director of Instituto Bíblico Apóstolico. Jacob's PhD research aims to fill a gap in Global Renewal Studies literature by exploring Pentecostalism in the Uruguayan context.



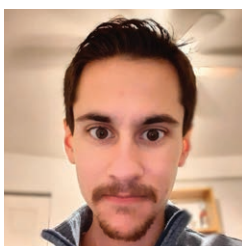
### Eric Daniel Villalobos

BA, University of California Santa Barbara / MA, University of London, England / PhD, Emory University (present)

Eric is a Chicano from Los Angeles born to parents from Guadalajara, Mexico. His research focuses on Jainism and South Asian religious studies more broadly. His current project examines the relationship between Jain monasticism, Indian indigenous medicine, and the encounter of these two worlds with Western systems of medicine (allopathic, homeopathic, etc.) and Protestant missionizing. He has studied for several years in India and has trained in Hindi, ancient Prakrit, and ancient Sanskrit.

## Second-Year Doctoral Scholars

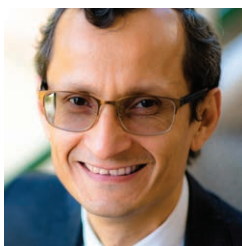
These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2022–2023 academic year.



### Matthew Arakaky

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

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



### **Mabio Coelho**

BTh, Adventist University of Sao Paulo / MBA, Universidade Cruzeiro do Sul / MDiv, Andrews University / PhD, Andrews University (present)

Mabio is a pastor and Bible scholar who is passionate about making the Bible plain and simple to others. He believes this is the only way to neutralize long-held misunderstandings which contributed to totally defacing Christianity and hindered our ability to know and love God deeply. He has worked in multiple capacities and at different levels for his church— both in the United States and abroad. Mabio is currently completing a PhD in Theology of Mission while he pastors a two-church district in Michigan. Before enrolling at Andrews University, he was working for the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as their chief information security officer, overseeing Security, Telecommunications, and cloud strategies. Mabio also worked as Urban Ministries Coordinator, Pastor, and Clinic/ Lifestyle Center Director at the Central Amazon Conference (Brazil) before moving to the General Conference.



### **Austin Mathew Cruz**

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

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



### **Stephen Di Trolio Coakley**

BA, University of Valley Forge / MA, Universidad Nacional de San Martin, Argentina / MDiv, Princeton Theological Seminary / PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary (present)

Stephen is enrolled in the Department of History and Ecumenics at Princeton Theological Seminary, focusing on World Christianity and History of Religions. He was born in Costa Rica and grew up in Argentina, where he returned to live after college in the United States. In Buenos Aires, he was a youth worker with international students, and taught at a local seminary. Before coming to Princeton, Stephen worked alongside rural education projects in Nicaragua. His research interests include Latin American political history, Pentecostalism in Argentina, social movements, political theology, and decolonial theory.

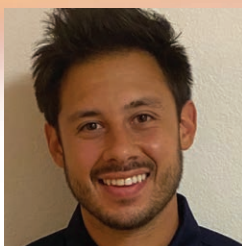


### **Damien Domenack**

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

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





### Jacob Leal

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

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



### Jesús Márquez Gaytán

BA, DePaul University / MDiv, McCormick Theological Seminary / PhD, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (present)

A son of Mexican immigrants in Chicago, Jesús embraces his heritage while also engaging in cross-cultural and interdenominational work. The breadth of his congregational service has included Hispanic immigrant communities, Korean youth ministry, and his role as Executive Minister of The Emmaus Community (a primarily African American non-denominational congregation) where he has pastored for more than eight years. In addition to his ministerial commitments, Jesús also works towards strengthening Hispanic scholarship as an adjunct faculty of McCormick Theological Seminary. Jesús believes that a serious engagement of contemporary Hispanic Christianity must take into account the significant presence of Catholic-Charismatics and the overwhelming influence of Protestant-Pentecostals in recent decades. Working through interdisciplinary history and theology, his research interest includes an exploration of Latin American revival movements and their significance in shaping pneumatology in Hispanic Pentecostal and Charismatic imagination.



### Robert Vincent Martinez

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

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



### Emanuel Padilla

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

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Emanuel was acutely aware of his exile from Puerto Rico from an early age. He grew an awareness of his double *mestizaje* as one who was neither completely from the United States nor the Island. This experience as part of the Puerto Rican diaspora is central to Emanuel's research and ministry interests. He is pursuing doctoral studies to construct a theology of *mestizaje* that recaptures the history of colonization, reshapes conceptions of *mestiza/o* identity, and informs ecclesial pursuits of justice. Emanuel's desire is to serve the Church through nontraditional educational ministries. He does this as founder and president of World Outspoken and co-host of the *Mestizo Podcast*.



### Adriana Rivera

BS, Indiana University Bloomington / MDiv, McCormick Theological Seminary / PhD, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (present)

Adriana (Dri) Rivera was born and raised in East Chicago, Indiana. It was here she returned after her undergraduate studies to be a seventh-grade English/Language Arts teacher. In addition to her service in the classroom, Adriana was also active in the religious education programming of her local church, from preaching and teaching in Sunday School to coordinating the annual Vacation Bible School. Living and working in an urban community made apparent the racialized, gendered, and economic systemic injustices that undermine the abundance of life that Jesus desires for the Beloved Community. Dri's seminary studies, which began with a certificate in Latinx Theology and Ministry *en conjunto* with Latinx clergy and lay leaders, revealed opportunities for the Church to address these issues in the Chicagoland area and beyond. This led her to pursue doctoral studies in Christian Education with a concentration in emancipatory pedagogy and decolonial theology.



### Kenia Vanessa Rodriguez

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

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



### KMarie Tejada

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

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

**Theological Education thrives when it aims to empower new generations of thinkers and practitioners to make theological traditions their own, as those of us in leadership have already done. Entrusting the task of meaning-making and re-tooling communities to transform their challenges into opportunities to those who are yet to come requires that those of us on the front lines of education, congregational life, community organizations, and administration work with a renewed commitment to creating the conditions that will, not promote survival, but invest in thriving. That may be the biggest challenge for theological education in the years ahead: not how we survive but how do we thrive so that we continue to nurture theological thinkers and practitioners committed to sustaining lives, healing our relationship with the earth, and promoting the peaceable kin-dom.**

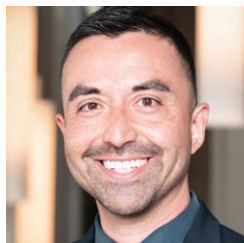
### Dr. Elias Ortega

President, Professor of Religion, Ethics, and Leadership  
Meadville Lombard Theological School



## Comprehensive Exam-Year Scholars

These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2022–2023 academic year.



### Danny Ballon-Garst

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

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



### Guilherme Brasil de Souza

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

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



### Eraldo Guedes da Costa

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

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



### Carlos Garcia

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

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





### **Stephanie Valeska Lopez Griswold**

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

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



### **Stacy Guinto-Salinas**

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

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



### **Evelmyn Ivens**

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

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



### **Sarah Kothe**

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

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



### **Daniel Montañez**

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

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



### **Kerwin A. Rodriguez**

BA, Moody Bible Institute / MDiv, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School / PhD, Baylor University (present)

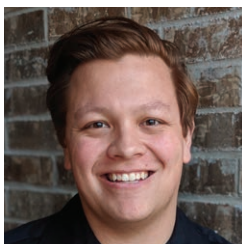
Kerwin was born in New York City to Dominican immigrants. He is passionate about preaching and teaching others to preach. Kerwin is pursuing doctoral studies because of his interest in the Latinx preaching tradition and is specifically interested in Dominican preaching during the dictatorship of Rafael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



### **Christian Sánchez**

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

Christian's interest in the Bible began when he was a kid sitting in the living room of his *tía's* house while he listened to his family discuss God and life. These experiences sparked his interest in the study of the New Testament and Christian origins. He is finishing coursework and preparing to write a dissertation on Zacchaeus under Dr. Mikeal Parsons. Christian will read Zacchaeus as a representative of Luke's toll collectors—the "wee little men" of the Gospel story whom Jesus declares "children of Abraham." As an aspiring biblical scholar, he hopes to contribute to the academic conversation as well as promote eclectic readings of Scripture within faith communities. Christian was born in Arlington, WA.



### **Izak Santana**

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

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



### **Karla Stevenson**

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

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



### Noemi Vega Quiñones

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

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



### René Velarde

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

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



### David Zamora

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

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

**What has HTI accomplished? It has made a new Pentecost possible. Through its creation of a consortium of theological schools and the raising of a scholarly *familia*, new voices and accents can be heard in the academy. HTI is a wonder! For 25 years and against terrible odds, it has helped the young see visions and the old dream dreams of a Christianity realigned with God's purposes for peace and justice. Thanks to this Pentecost inspired program, Duke Divinity School and others are finding that the faith of Hispanic and Latinx people is a gift and promise for all peoples.**

### Dr. Edgardo Colón-Emeric

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





## Proposal and Research Scholars

These scholars have passed comprehensive exams and are at the early stages of their dissertation proposal. They have been assigned an HTI editor for the 2022–2023 academic year.



### Gonzalo R. Alers

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

Gonzalo is originally from Puerto Rico and is endorsed for pastoral ministry with the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico, affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA. His academic interests align with the critical study of the New Testament, specifically The Gospels and the Book of Revelation, Early Christianity, Non-Canonical Literature, and Koine Greek. He focuses his research on the intersection of postcolonial and decolonial theories, empire, and subaltern studies applied to Puerto Rico's context. Knowing that a nuanced reading requires delicate tools, the purpose of his scholarly work is to provide a critical sensibility and alternative interpretive lenses for a decolonial biblical hermeneutic for Puerto Ricans.



### Jasmin Figueroa

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

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



### Francisco J. Garcia, Jr.

BA, University of California Los Angeles / MA, University of California Los Angeles / MA, University of California Los Angeles / MDiv, Claremont School of Theology / PhD, Vanderbilt University (present)

Originally from Los Angeles, California, Francisco grew up in a working-class Mexican immigrant household with Catholic roots. As an Episcopal priest, labor, and community organizer, Francisco's work centers around congregation-based ministry and interfaith organizing that integrates racial, economic, and environmental-eco justice efforts. His doctoral project entails developing theologically and pastorally-grounded models for organizing and movement-building in church and interfaith contexts—rooted in Latin American/Latinx and other liberation traditions—that challenge the pressing structural injustices of our time and can construct alternatives. Francisco is a PhD Student in Theological Studies, Ethics, and Action at Vanderbilt University in the Graduate Department of Religion, and a Graduate Research Fellow at the Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice at Vanderbilt Divinity School. He also serves as an Assistant Chaplain at St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel in Nashville.



### Joshua Mendez

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

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



### Geoffrey Nelson-Blake

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

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



### Matthew Vega

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

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



### Eunice Villaneda-Bolaños

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

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

**So much has happened since I joined the HTI *familia* as a Dissertation Scholar and a previous director. There was an exasperatingly minute number of Latinas with a doctoral degree, and I knew none who served as deans or vice-presidents, let alone president of any theological institution. HTI has been a catalyst in changing this. Our theological institutions are enriched by this change. Many are looking more and more like the church they are called to serve. Much still awaits—I hope to see a Latina president of a theological school soon—but HTI continues *pa'lante* with resolute commitment. This is energizing.**

### Dr. Zaida Maldonado Pérez

Former Dean of the School of Urban Ministries and Professor of Church History and Theology  
Asbury Theological Seminary, Florida-Dunnam Campus



## Dissertation Year Scholars

These scholars are writing their dissertations. Each will receive editorial assistance throughout the 2022–2023 academic year.



### Arelis Benitez (Aly)

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

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



### Patricia Bonilla

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

Patricia Bonilla is the daughter of Mexican migrants. Growing up bilingual and bicultural, she experienced the challenges as well as the creative possibilities of navigating multilingual and multiethnic spaces. Patricia has worked in congregational ministry since 2005 as well as community and youth development, focusing on fostering creative and liberatory educational spaces for Latinx youth. She has been a mentor and program coordinator with the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy since 2008. As an ordained clergy with the United Methodist Church, she has also worked to foster community engagement, leadership, and faith development in faith communities. As a practical theologian, she is acutely aware of the political, epistemological, and cultural implications of education, specifically educating toward liberation and conscientization. Her research interests bring into dialogue and practice critical pedagogies, decolonial theory, and religious education with special attention to engaging with epistemologies of the South and pluriversal ecologies of knowledge. She is interested in the “how to” of educating holistically. As a doctoral student, she researches the practices and theories of faith formation and the generative possibilities of world-building otherwise, particularly from the experiences of minoritized and marginalized racial/ethnic communities.



### Felipe A. Chamy

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

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

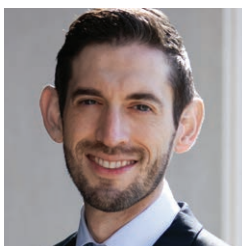


### Panayotis “Otis” Coutsoumpas, Jr.

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

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





### Matthew Esquivel

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

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



### Raquel Feagins

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

An ordained elder in the Rio Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Raquel C. Feagins currently serves as Associate Pastor at La Trinidad United Methodist Church, a historic Mexican American congregation in San Antonio, Texas. As a pastor-scholar, Raquel is deeply connected to the spiritual life of her church and community, drawing on those wells of experience for academic reflection. Raquel's research intersects spirituality, biblical studies, Latina protestant women (*pastoras*), and feminist/liberatory theologies.



### Nathan Aaron García

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

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

**I had the privilege of the Hispanic Theological Initiative and the scholarly community it creates define my doctoral work in a moment when Latinas and Latinos were painfully underrepresented within the study of theology. Today, while we are greater in numbers, we still remain overwhelmingly absent from the dominant narrative of our academic disciplines. My hope for our future is that we focus more on reshaping our fields and become more prominent in the administrative leadership of our institutions of higher learning. I also have faith that in doing so we will create new models of inclusion and governance.**

**Dr. Michelle Maldonado**  
Dean College of Arts and Sciences  
The University of Scranton







### **Chauncey Diego Francisco Handy**

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

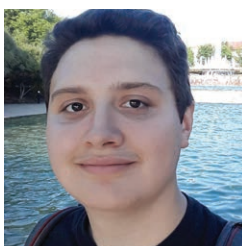
Chauncey's identity as a Chicano frames his research on the nature of ethnicity and belonging in the book of Deuteronomy. With Latinx concepts of identity, theories of ethnicity, and tools of historical criticism he explores the Pentateuch's complex relationship to forming ancient Israelite/Jewish ethnicity.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



### **Francisco Herrera**

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

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



### **Chance Juliano**

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

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



### **Vinicius Marinho**

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

Vinicius was born and raised in Araruama, Brazil. He works in constructive theology and religious thought. His research and teaching engage theological and ethical debates about the political economy, human dignity, and racial justice. Before pivoting towards the study of religion and theology, Vinicius was a constitutional lawyer.



### **Gerardo Oudri**

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

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



### Samuel Pagán

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

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



### Elaine Penagos

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

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



### Nancy Piedad Reyes Frazier

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

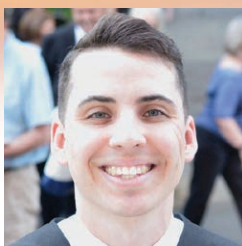
Nancy is Mexican-American, and her interests include the intersection of theology and cultural phenomenology, particularly as it relates to revelation, communal ethics, spiritual formation, and the arts. Once she completes her doctoral studies, Nancy plans to pursue teaching theology at an institution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

**The HTI has transformed the landscape of theological education by infusing new blood and perspectives into it. Today, the work of the HTI is more critical than ever as theological education faces multiple crises – both in the church and in the academy, with the closure of churches and decline in academic programs. The HTI is a necessary balm to see us through these times.**

### Dr. Luis Pedraja

President  
Quinsigamond Community College





### **Luan Henrique Gomes Ribeiro**

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

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



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

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

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



### **Alexandra Rosado-Román**

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

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

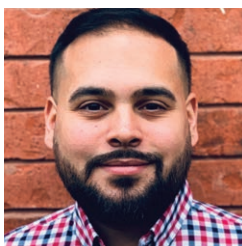


### **Elyssa Salinas-Lazarski**

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

Elyssa believes that her theology must touch her body; therefore, her scholarship encompasses her experience as a Mexican-American and as a woman. She is passionate about making the church a safe space for each and 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.





### **José Santana**

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

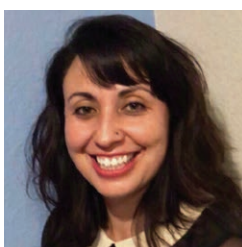
As a PhD Candidate, José studies the historical interplay between African religions and Christianity in the early modern Atlantic world. His research interests intersect around race and slavery, the development and expression of African religiosity in Latin America, and historical, theological, and theoretical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



### **Yolanda Michelle Santiago Correa**

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

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



### **Crystal Silva-McCormick**

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

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



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

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

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

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

■ Culture

■ Gender & Sexuality

■ Migration

■ Education

■ Health

■ Politics & Economics

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

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

Consider becoming a contributor and working *en conjunto* with the Faculty-Led Team, composed of editors from academic institutions throughout the United States, and with the Production Team.

### Faculty-Led Team

Eric Barreto  
Christopher Bellitto  
Macarena Hernández

Jacqueline Hidalgo  
Daniel Ramírez  
Joanne Rodríguez

Nelly Rosario  
Santiago Slabodsky

### Production Team

Stephen DiTrollo Coakley  
Macarena Hernández

Jon Rodríguez  
Nelly Rosario

HTI **Open Plaza** is made possible by the generous support of the Henry Luce Foundation.

## PERSPECTIVAS

### Perspectivas

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

*Perspectivas* is a peer-reviewed trilingual 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.

#### Editorial Staff:

Néstor Medina, Senior Editor  
Socorro Castañeda-Liles,  
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João Chaves, Associate Editor  
Grace Vargas, Technical Services  
& Co-Book Review Editor  
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#### Advisory Board:

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Ulrike Guthrie  
  
**Publisher:**  
Joanne Rodriguez,  
Executive Director, Hispanic  
Theological Initiative

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



### Journeys

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

To subscribe and to read current and past issues visit [hti.ptsem.edu/publications/journeys](http://hti.ptsem.edu/publications/journeys).

### HTI Dissertation Series Collection

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

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

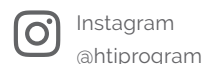
### HTI Website

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

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

### HTI on Social Media

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



Scan here to quickly access  
HTI on Social Media



# HTI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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

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

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

## Through these internships, participants:

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

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

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

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

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



Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA)



The Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS)



Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana (AETH)



Hispanic Summer Program (HSP)



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Latino Network (CBF)



Convencion Bautista Hispana de Texas



Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA)



World Outspoken

# HTI EARLY CAREER ORIENTATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The Hispanic Theological Initiative is a beacon in our communities. Having served as panel reviewer for the selection and later mentoring of HTI scholars, I see HTI's decades impact. From the pipelines to faculty positions transforming academia through the scholarship and leadership now visible across the country, HTI is a model for higher education and our broader communities where HTI scholars find themselves. HTI emerged as a beacon of hope that has delivered already generations of scholars whose scholarly contributions to theology, analysis of scripture of thought and practice, and commitment to lifting community that serves as a model.**

**Dr. Milagros Peña**  
President  
Purchase College, SUNY



# HTI LATINAS IN LEADERSHIP

Launched in September 2021, with funding from the Lilly Endowment Inc. Latinas in Leadership (LIL) brings bi-vocational, entrepreneurial, and mid-level career Latinas in religion and theological education *en conjunto* to develop the skills they need to create sustainable practices that will carry and advance them through their careers. By exploring the mind, body, and spirit Latinas in this by-invitation only program will create a balanced and holistic plan for their professional goals and leadership.

The programming includes:

- Creating an individualized *Proyecto Vital*, an action plan which will help each woman take the next steps in their leadership goals in a sustainable, holistic, and viable way.
- Going through several assessment pieces with Certified Executive Coaches to determine their strengths, stresses, and leadership approaches.
- Participating in 6 to 8 monthly virtual meetings and two in-person meetings where they will hear and engage panelists and speakers on topics covering themes such as Managing Effectively, Building High-Performing Teams, Conflict Resolution, and Dealing with Institutional Change, etc.
- Participating in small groups facilitated by Sages, knowledgeable and skilled Latina leaders, to explore the themes above *en conjunto*.
- Defining what holistic leadership means to the participants as they advance their career goals *en conjunto* with the mission of an organization..

HTI Latinas in Leadership is made possible by the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc.

**When I began my MDiv studies at Andover Newton Theological School, Dr. Orlando E. Costas was the first Latinx (male) dean of an ATS accredited school. Latina professors were scarce and absent from leadership roles. Publications were few. There was no HTI! By the time I finished my doctoral studies, an established HTI was already significantly increasing the number of Latinx scholars in the academy. While not at the same pace as Latinos, the number of Latina scholars has since increased from a handful to over 30 women who are each contributing important scholarship. My hope is that theological education will continue to shift from an exclusionary space that welcomes only certain voices, to a “beautiful community” (re: MLK, Jr.) that understands fully the meaning of “diversity, inclusion, and equity” and its implications. I also hope that I will continue to see more Latina women enter the vocation of theological education and academic administration.**

**Rev. Dr. Loida I. Martell**

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean  
Professor of Constructive Theology  
Lexington Theological Seminary



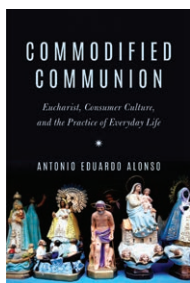


# HTI BOOK PRIZE

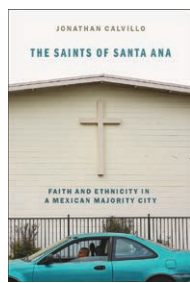
The HTI Book Prize was established in 2002 to motivate junior scholars to publish in their field. The award recognizes and rewards the best book written by a junior Latinx scholar on theology and/or religion each year. The prize includes a monetary award and a guest lectureship at the annual HTI Professional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

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

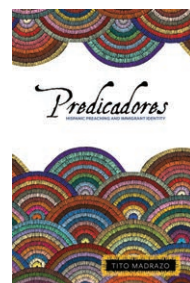
## 2021 Book Prize Winners



*Commodified Communion: Eucharist, Consumer Culture, and the Practice of Everyday Life*  
By Dr. Antonio E. Alonso



*The Saints of Santa Ana: Faith and Ethnicity in a Mexican Majority City*  
By Dr. Jonathan E. Calvillo



*Predicadores Hispanic Preaching and Immigrant Identity*  
by Dr. Tito Madrazo

## Past Book Prize Winners

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

## HTI Master's Graduates from 1997 to 2002

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

**Rafael Acosta**  
Harvard Divinity School

**Judy A. Armas López**  
Franciscan School of Theology

**Diana Ávila (deceased)**  
Jesuit School of Theology

**Maricarmen C. Castro**  
San Francisco Theological Seminary

**César Chaves**  
Pacific School of Religion

**Martín Concepción**  
McCormick Theological Seminary

**Claudio Díaz**  
University of St. Mary of the Lake

**María Díaz**  
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**Carlo J. Ellard**  
Yale Divinity School

**Victor Feliberty-Ruberté, PhD**  
Columbia Theological Seminary

**Verónica García**  
Harvard Divinity School

**Adelita Garza**  
Fuller Theological Seminary

**Thomas Laporté, PhD**  
Candler School of Theology at  
Emory University

**Juan Gabriel Lara**  
University of Saint Mary of the Lake

**Jaime López**  
Harvard Divinity School

**Nelly Lorenzo**  
Loyola University (Chicago)

**Maricarmen Laureano-Ortega**  
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**Ewin Martínez**  
Union Theological Seminary  
in the City of New York

**Hjamil Martínez-Vázquez, PhD**  
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**José del Carmen Méndez Izquierdo**  
University of Saint Mary of the Lake

**Marco Mercado López**  
University of Saint Mary of the Lake

**Pedro E. Miranda-Torres**  
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**Carmen Moreno (Albarrán)**  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**Felix Muñoz**  
Ashland Theological Seminary

**Magdiel Narváez Negrón**  
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**Daniela Nogués**  
San Francisco Theological Seminary

**Carlos Parra, PhD**  
Harvard Divinity School

**Santiago Piñon, PhD**  
The University of Chicago

**Oleta M. Proctor-Fernández**  
Graduate Theological Union/Jesuit  
School of Theology

**David Ramos**  
Princeton Theological Seminary

**Ricardo Ramos, DMin**  
Drew University Theological School

**Mayra Rivera, PhD**  
Drew University Theological School

**Saúl Rivera**  
Andrews University

**Rady Roldán-Figueroa, PhD**  
New Brunswick Theological Seminary

**Ariel Rodríguez (deceased)**  
Drew University Theological School

**Armando Rodríguez Jr., PhD**  
Garrett-Evangelical  
Theological Seminary

**América Rojas**  
Pacific School of Religion

**Carla Elena Roland Guzmán, PhD**  
Church Divinity School of the Pacific

**Gabriel A. Salguero**  
New Brunswick Theological Seminary

**Angel Santiago-Vendrell, PhD**  
Church of God Theological Seminary

**María I. Santiviago-Espinal**  
New York Theological Seminary

**Carmelo Santos, PhD**  
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

**David G. Soto-Valenzuela**  
Drew University Theological School

**Hamleth Terrones**  
Fuller Theological Seminary

**Lorena Maria Thompson Thompson**  
Emory University

**Felipe Vaglienty**  
University of St. Mary of the Lake

**Brendaly Vélez**  
Fuller Theological Seminary

**Christopher Ysaïs**  
Harvard Divinity School

## HTI PhD Graduates from 1997 to 2022

For 26 years, HTI has supported 156 doctoral students. These HTI doctoral and post-doctoral graduates are now serving in the church, academy, and public life. They teach and write in schools across the nation and around the world, preparing the next generation to lead in a diverse and challenging world.

### Javier R. Alanís

Executive Director and Associate Professor of Theology, Culture, and Mission, **Retired**  
Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest  
Pastor  
St. John Lutheran Church, San Juan, Texas

### Jared Alcántara

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

### Salvador Leavitt-Alcántara

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

### Mariana Alessandri

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

### Sammy G. Alfaro

Professor of Theology  
Grand Canyon University

### Antonio (Tony) Alonso

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

### Xochitl Alvizo

Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
California State University, Northridge

### Edwin David Aponte

Dean  
Drew Theological School

### Jorge A. Aquino

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

### Wendy Arce

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Graduate Theological Union

### Rubén Arjona

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care  
Union Presbyterian Seminary

### Elmer Arrais Guzman

Professor of Systematic Theology  
Instituto Adventista Paranaense, Brazil

### Enrique Báez García

Pastor  
Forest Grove Spanish SDA Church,  
Forest Grove, Oregon

### José E. Balcells

Lecturer  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico

### Saul Barcelo

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

### Eric Barreto

Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament  
Princeton Theological Seminary

### Paul Barton

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

### Ana Bedard

Senior Manager, Executive Development  
AbbVie, Chicago, Illinois

### Rebecca Berru-Davis

Assistant Professor of Theology  
St. Catherine University

### Melisa Marie Ortiz Berry

Assistant Professor of History and World Christianity  
Bushnell University

### Víctor Carmona

Associate Professor of Latina/o Theologies  
University of San Diego

### Tommy Casarez

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

### Socorro Castañeda

CO-Founder and Chief Education Officer  
Becoming Mujeres, California

### Daniel Patrick Castillo

Assistant Professor of World Christianity  
Loyola University Maryland

### Manuela Ceballos

Assistant Professor of Islam  
University of Tennessee Knoxville

### João Chaves

Associate Director for Programming  
Hispanic Theological Initiative  
Assistant Professor of Evangelism and Mission  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

### Arturo Chávez

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

### Elizabeth Conde-Frazier

Executive Director  
Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana

### Gerardo A. Corpeño Nerio

Professor of Systematic and Latin American Theology  
SETECA (Central American Theological  
Seminary), Guatemala

### Jeremy Cruz

Associate Professor of Theological Ethics  
St. John's University

### Gregory Lee Cuéllar

Associate Professor of Old Testament  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

### Frederick John Dalton

Teacher of Religious Studies  
Bellarmine College Preparatory

### Maziel Barreto Dani

Director of Family Support Services  
Catholic Charities, Oklahoma

### María Teresa Dávila

Associate Professor of Practice, Religious  
and Theological Studies  
Merrimack College

### Cristian De La Rosa

Associate Dean for Students and Community Life  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Contextual Theology  
and Practice  
Boston University

### Joseph De León

Lecturer  
University of the Incarnate Word

### Liam de los Reyes

Associate Professor of Moral Theology  
Mount Angel Seminary

### Anita De Luna (deceased)

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
Our Lady of the Lake University

### Neomi DeAnda

Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
University of Dayton

### Teresa Delgado

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
St. John's University

### Janan Delgado Dassum

Independent Scholar

### Kristian Díaz

Independent Scholar

### Miguel Díaz

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

### Esther Díaz-Bolet

Independent Scholar

**Fellipe do Vale**

Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

**Rubén Dupertuis**

Department Chair  
Associate Professor of Religion  
Trinity University

**Jennifer Fernández**

Consultant & Independent Scholar

**Marlene Ferreras**

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

**Daniel F. Flores**

Director of Cook Library and Assistant Professor  
Western Theological Seminary

**Thomas Vincent Flores**

Assistant Professor of Positive Human  
Development and Social Change  
Life University

**Renata Furst-Lambert**

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

**Angel J. Gallardo**

Assistant Professor of Church History  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

**Yvette García**

Vice President of Advancement  
West Coast Bible College and Seminary

**Cristina Garcia-Alfonso**

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

**Francisco Javier Goitia Padilla**

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

**Néstor A. Gómez-Morales**

Lead Pastor  
First Congregational Church, Stamford, Connecticut

**Raúl Gómez Ruiz**

President-Rector  
Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

**Alexander R. Gonzales**

Associate Professor of Bible Exposition  
Dallas Theological Seminary at Houston

**Awilda González**

Professor of New Testament  
Centro Educativo de Estudios Biblicos

**Julian A. González**

Associate Professor of Old Testament  
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

**Michelle González Maldonado**

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Scranton

**Cecilia González-Andrieu**

Professor of Theology and Theological Aesthetics  
Loyola Marymount University

**Yara González-Justiniano**

Assistant Professor of Religion, Culture,  
and Psychology  
Vanderbilt University

**Michael Remedios Grigoni**

Assistant Director of Faculty Initiatives  
Kenan Institute for Ethics; Duke University

**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-Espinoza**

Founder Activist Theology Project  
Visiting Professor  
Duke Divinity School

**Abner F. Hernández**

Assistant Professor of Church History  
Andrews University

**Alberto Hernández**

Associate Professor of the History of Christianity  
Iliff School of Theology

**Adrian Emmanuel Hernandez Acosta**

Postdoctoral Research Associate in  
International Humanities  
Brown University

**Juan Hernández, Jr.**

Professor of Biblical Studies  
Bethel University

**Rodolfo Hernández-Díaz**

Assistant Professor  
Meiho University, Taiwan

**Lydia Hernández Marcial**

Professor Old Testament and Hebrew  
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

**Ann M. Hidalgo**

Professor of Feminist Theology  
Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana, Costa Rica

**Dennis Ricardo Hidalgo**

Senior Research Associate  
Dominican Studies Institute, City College, CUNY

**Jacqueline Hidalgo**

Director of the Oakley Center for Humanities  
and Social Science Research  
Professor of Latina/o Studies and Religion  
Williams College

**Felipe Hinojosa**

Director of the Carlos H. Cantú Hispanic Education  
& Opportunity Endowment  
Associate Professor, History Department  
Texas A&M University

**Suzanne Hoeferkamp-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 (USA)

**Yohana A. Junker**

Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Scholar  
Assistant Professor of Art, Religion, and Culture  
Claremont School of Theology

**Alberto La Rosa Rojas**

Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics  
Western Theological Seminary

**Michael Edward Lee**

Professor of Theology and Latin American  
and Latino/a Studies  
Fordham University

**Moises López**

Senior Pastor  
Lynwood Grace Church, Lynwood, California

**Nora Lozano-Díaz**

Executive Director  
Christian Latina Leadership Institute,  
San Antonio, Texas

**Tito Madrazo**

Program Director in the Religion Division  
Lilly Endowment Inc.

**Hugo Magallanes**

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Director, Hispanic-Latinx Ministries Program (MAP)  
Director, United Methodist Regional Course of Study  
School for Local Pastors  
Associate Professor of Christianity and Cultures  
Perkins School of Theology at Southern  
Methodist University

**Loida I. Martell**

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean  
Professor of Constructive Theology  
Lexington Theological Seminary

**Hjamil Alfonso Martínez-Vázquez**

Bilingual Teacher  
Crowley Independent School District

**Roberto Mata**

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
Santa Clara University

**Gilberto Medina**

President  
Gilberto Medina Ministries

**Lara Medina**

Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies  
California State University, Northridge

**Néstor Medina**

Assistant Professor of Religious Ethics  
Emmanuel College of Victoria University  
in the University of Toronto

**Manuel Jesús Mejido Costoya**

Associate Researcher  
Institute of Sociological Research,  
University of Geneva, Switzerland

**Peter Anthony Mena**

Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies  
University of San Diego



**Angel F. Méndez Montoya**

Professor of Philosophy of Religion  
Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico

**Luis Menéndez Antuña**

Assistant Professor of New Testament  
Boston University School of Theology

**Maria Julia Monteiro**

Lecturer in Church Music  
Baylor University School of Music

**Juan Carlos Morales**

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

**José Francisco Morales Torres**

Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies  
Chicago Theological Seminary

**Matilde K. Moros**

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

**Rubén Muñoz-Larrondo**

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

**Adriana Pilar Nieto**

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

**Oswald John Nira**

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

**Michael Orellana Méndez**

Director of Graduate Studies in Theology  
Universidad Peruana Union, Peru

**Elias Ortega Aponte**

President  
Meadville Lombard Theological School

**Jennifer Owens-Jofré**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Theology  
and Religious Studies  
University of San Diego

**Elaine Padilla**

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion,  
and Latinx/Latin American Studies  
The University of La Verne

**Melissa Pagán**

Director of Graduate Religious Studies  
Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles

**Segundo Pantoja**

Assistant Professor for Ethnic Studies  
Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

**Francisco J Peláez-Díaz**

Assistant Teaching Professor in Latinx Ministries  
Drew University

**Adam Perez**

Postdoctoral Associate in Worship  
Duke University Divinity School

**Zaida Maldonado Pérez**

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

**Altagracia Pérez Bullard**

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

**Jonathan Pimentel Chacón**

Professor  
Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica

**Santiago O. Piñón**

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

**Daniel Ramírez**

Associate Professor of American Religions  
Claremont Graduate University

**Erica Michelle Ramirez**

Director of Applied Research  
Auburn Seminary

**Rafael Reyes III**

Director of Graduate Student Life and  
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Katz School of Science and Health, Yeshiva University

**Christopher Rios-Sueverkruebbe**

Assistant Editor  
Rutgers University Press

**Mayra Rivera**

Professor of Religion and Latinx Studies  
Harvard University

**Jesús Rodríguez**

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

**Martin Daniel Rodríguez**

Assistant Professor of Practical Theology  
Azusa Pacific University

**Armando J. Rodríguez, Jr.**

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

**Jorge Juan Rodriguez V**

Associate Director for Strategic Programming  
Hispanic Summer Program

**Carla Elena Roland-Guzmán**

Rector  
The Church of Saint Matthew and Saint Timothy  
Affiliated Professor of Church History  
General Seminary

**Rady Roldán-Figueroa**

Director of the Center for Latin American Studies  
Associate Professor of the History of Christianity  
Boston University School of Theology

**Louis Rolsky**

Lecturer  
Rutgers University Department of Religion

**Miguel J. Romero**

Assistant Professor, Religious and Theological Studies  
Salve Regina University

**Rubén Rosario Rodríguez**

Director of Mev Puleo Scholarship in Latin American  
Theology and Culture  
Professor of Theology  
St. Louis University

**Norman Ruano**

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

**Gilberto A. Ruiz**

Associate Professor of Theology  
Saint Anselm College

**David A. Sánchez (deceased)**

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

**Leopoldo A. Sánchez M.**

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

**Angel Santiago-Vendrell**

Associate Professor of Evangelism  
Asbury Theological Seminary, Florida Dunnam  
Campus

**Carmelo Santos-Rolón**

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

**Eric Joseph Sias**

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

**Anandi Silva Knuppel**

Senior Technical Writer  
Tealium, California

**Luis Tampe**

University Jesuit Associate  
St. Aedan's: The Saint Peter's University Church,  
Jersey City, New Jersey

**Stephanie Mota Thurston**

Research Fellow in the Religion Department  
University of Illinois

**Chris D. Tirres**

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

**Theresa L. Torres**

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

**Jorge Luis Valdés**

Independent Scholar

**Benjamín Valentín**

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

**O. Ernesto Valiente**

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

**Lis E. Valle**

Assistant Professor of Homiletics  
McCormick Theological Seminary

**Héctor M. Varela-Rios**

Assistant Professor of Theology  
Villanova University

**Grace Vargas**

Assistant Professor of Latinx Religious Traditions  
Texas Christian University,

**Jared Vazquez**

Adjunct Faculty  
Iliff School of Theology

**Horacio Vela III**

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
University of the Incarnate Word

**Efraín Velázquez II**

President  
Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary

**Manuel Villalobos-Mendoza**

Affiliated Assistant Professor of  
New Testament Interpretation  
Chicago Theological Seminary

**Jonathan Warren**

Co-Associate Rector  
Church of the Ascension, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Aizaiah Yong**

Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and  
Pastoral Care  
Pacific School of Religion

**Theresa A. Yugar**

Lecturer  
California State University, Los Angeles

**Raul Zegarra**

Editor  
Hispanic Theological Initiative  
Lecturer  
Loyola University Chicago

## HTI Post-Doctoral Fellows from 1997 to 2001

**Efraín Agosto**

Croghan Bicentennial Professor in Biblical  
and Early Christian Studies  
Williams College

**Paul Barton**

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

**Rudy V. Busto**

Associate Professor of Religious Studies  
University of California, Santa Barbara

**Miguel A. De La Torre**

Professor of Social Ethics and Latina/o Studies  
Iliff School of Theology

**Gastón Espinosa**

Arthur V. Stoughton Professor of Religious Studies  
Claremont McKenna College

**Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J.**

Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Ministry  
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University  
Graduate Theological Union

**Luís Daniel León (deceased)**

Professor of Religion in the Americas  
University of Denver

**Francisco Lozada Jr.**

Charles Fischer Catholic Associate Professor of New  
Testament and Latina/o Church Studies  
Brite Divinity School

**Lara Medina**

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

**Luis Pedraja**

President  
Quinsigamond Community College

**The journey and development of Latinx theological education in the academy can be traced back to the mid-1960s. A new generation of Latinx church leaders, seminarians, and a few professors, inspired and connected to the diverse Hispanic civil rights movement of the times, developed ministries, public actions, militant hermeneutics, and practical theologies at the outskirts and the periphery of theological institutions. Since 1996, the HTI has been a product and protagonist of this movement by becoming a leading organization in the formation of generations of Latinx scholars-educators. This movement is now over 55 years, and it is still growing, struggling, and transforming the landscape of graduate theological education in the USA. *Pa'lante que sí se puede.***

**Dr. Luis Rivera Rodríguez**

Associate Professor of Theology  
Former Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary



## HTI Enrollment by Member Schools from 2008 to 2023

### Andrews University, Michigan

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

Mabio Coelho  
2022–2023 First -Year Doctoral

Eraldo Guedes da Costa  
2018–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2023 Dissertation

Jose S. Díaz  
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral

Herber Eduardo Garcia Zárate  
2022–2023 First -Year Doctoral

Elmer A. Guzman  
2017–2019 Dissertation

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

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

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

Erick Mendieta  
2013–2014 Comprehensive Exams  
2014–2017 Dissertation

Michael Orellana, PhD  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams  
2018–2020 Dissertation

Gerardo Oudri  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2023 Dissertation

Samuel Pagán  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2023 Dissertation

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

Flavio Prestes III  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams

Abelardo José Rivas  
2016–2021 Dissertation

### Baylor University, Texas

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

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

Leslie Garrote  
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral

Robert Vincent Martínez  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Second -Year Doctoral

María Monteiro, PhD  
2020–2021 Dissertation

Kerwin Rodríguez  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

Christian Sánchez  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

### Boston University School of Theology, Massachusetts

Xochitl Alvizo, PhD  
2014–2015 Dissertation

Luis Javier DePrada  
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral

Jasmin Elise Figueroa  
2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2023 Proposal and Research

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

Jacob Leal  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

Daniel Montañez  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

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

KMarie Tejeda  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

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

### Brite Divinity School, Texas

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

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

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

Danny Ballon  
2020–2021 First--Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

Manuela Ceballos, PhD  
2013–2014 Dissertation

Anandi Silva Knuppel, PhD  
2018–2019 Dissertation

Sarah Kothe  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

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

Elaine Penagos  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2023 Dissertation

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

Eric Daniel Villalobos  
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral

## Claremont Graduate University, California

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

Panayotis Coutsoumpas, Jr.  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research  
2022–2023 Dissertation

Thomas Evans  
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams

Stephanie Valeska Lopez Griswold  
2020–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

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

Joshua Méndez  
2021–2023 Comprehensive Exams

## Claremont School of Theology, California

Saul Barcelo, PhD  
2019–2020 Dissertation

Marlene Mayra Ferreras, PhD  
2017–2019 Dissertation

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

José Francisco Morales Torres, PhD  
2018–2019 Dissertation

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

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

Eunice Villaneda-Bolaños  
2020–2023 Comprehensive Exams

Aizaiah Yong, PhD  
2019–2020 Dissertation

## Dallas Theological Seminary, Texas

Nancy Frazier  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research  
2022–2023 Dissertation

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

## Drew University, New Jersey

Gonzalo R. Alers  
2019–2020 First-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams  
2022–2023 Proposal and Research

Damien Domenack  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

Fernando Linhares  
2014–2015 Comprehensive Exams

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

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

Kenia Vanessa Rodríguez  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

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

## Duke Divinity School, North Carolina

Matthew Arakaky  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

Amanda Rachel Bolaños  
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral

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

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

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

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

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

## Fuller Theological Seminary, California

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

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

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

Jacob Palma  
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral

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

Karla Stevenson  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

René Velarde  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

## Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Illinois

Patricia Bonilla  
2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research  
2022–2023 Dissertation

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

Evelmyn Ivens  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

Jesús Marquez Gaytán  
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

Emanuel Padilla  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

Adriana Rivera  
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

Elyssa Salinas  
2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral  
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral  
2018–2022 Comprehensive Exams  
2022–2023 Dissertation



Manuel Villalobos, PhD  
2009–2010 Dissertation

### Graduate Theological Union, California

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

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

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

Yohana Junker, PhD  
2018–2019 Dissertation

Geoffrey Nelson-Blake  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams  
2022–2023 Proposal and Research

Jennifer Christine Owens-Jofré, PhD  
2017–2018 Dissertation

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

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

### Harvard Divinity School, Massachusetts

Janan Delgado Dassum, PhD  
2018–2019 Proposal and Research

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

Roberto Mata, PhD  
2013–2014 Dissertation

Luan Henrique Gomes Ribeiro  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2023 Dissertation

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

Kristian Díaz, PhD  
2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral  
2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral

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

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

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

Adriana Pilar Nieto, PhD  
2008–2009 Dissertation

Jared Vázquez, PhD  
2013–2014 Second-Year Doctoral

### Luther Seminary, Minnesota

Andrés Roberto Albertsen  
2015–2019 Dissertation

### Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Illinois

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

Francisco Herrera  
2021–2023 Dissertation

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

Eddie A. Rosa Fuentes  
2020–2022 Comprehensive Exams  
2022–2023 Dissertation

Crystal Silva-McCormick  
2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2023 Dissertation

### The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Leila M. Ortiz  
2014–2016 Dissertation

### Oblate School of Theology, Texas

Raquel Feagins  
2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral  
2016–2019 Comprehensive Exams  
2019–2021 Proposal and Research  
2022–2023 Dissertation

Nathan Aaron Garcia  
2017–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2023 Dissertation

Julieta Sánchez  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

### Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey

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

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

Guilherme Brasil de Souza  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

Stephen Di Trollo Coakley  
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

Stacy Guinto-Salinas  
2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2023 Comprehensive Exams

Chauncy Diego Francisco Handy  
2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2023 Dissertation

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

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

### Southern Methodist University, Texas

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

Matthew Esquivel  
2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2023 Dissertation

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

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

**Chance Juliano**  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research  
2022–2023 Dissertation

**José Santana**  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2023 Dissertation

**Yolanda Michelle Santiago Correa**  
2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research  
22–2023 Dissertation

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

**Noemi Vega Quiñones**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

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

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

**Vinicius Marinho**  
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral  
2018–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2023 Dissertation

**Izak Santana**  
2019–2020 First-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2023 Comprehensive Exams

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

**Matthew Vega**  
2019–2020 First-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams  
2022–2023 Proposal and Research

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Austin Mathew Cruz**  
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

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

**Carlos Garcia**  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

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

**Joryán Hernández**  
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral

**Amirah Orozco**  
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral

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

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

## **Vanderbilt University, Tennessee**

**Arelis Benitez**  
2017–2018 First-Year Doctoral  
2018–2019 Second-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams  
2020–2021 Proposal and Research  
2021–2023 Dissertation

**Isaac Borbon**  
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral

**Francisco J. Garcia, Jr.**  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams  
2022–2023 Dissertation

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

**Alexandra Rosado-Román**  
2018–2019 First-Year Doctoral  
2019–2020 Second-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams  
2021–2022 Proposal and Research  
2022–2023 Dissertation

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

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

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

## **Wheaton College, Illinois**

**Felipe A. Chamy**  
2019–2020 First-Year Doctoral  
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral  
2021–2023 Dissertation


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

**David Zamora**  
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral  
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral  
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams

# HTI MEMBER SCHOOLS

Andrews  University

  
**BRITE**  
DIVINITY SCHOOL

  
CLAREMONT  
SCHOOL OF  
THEOLOGY

  
**Claremont**  
GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

 **BAYLOR**  
UNIVERSITY

**BOSTON**  
UNIVERSITY

 DALLAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



 **DUKE**  
DIVINITY  
SCHOOL

 **EMORY**  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL

 **FULLER**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

 **Garrett**  
GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

 **GTU**



 **LUTHER**  
SEMINARY

 **Lutheran School of  
Theology at Chicago**

 **OBLATE**  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



 **SMU** | PERKINS SCHOOL  
OF THEOLOGY



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

 **VANDERBILT**  
DIVINITY SCHOOL

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO**  
Divinity School

**UNION**

# HTI CONSORTIUM

The HTI *En Conjunto* Model is a best practice, award-winning, comprehensive and holistic approach for supporting Latinx PhD scholars in religious and theological studies. Currently, it is offered through HTI Consortium member schools.

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

## The How of the HTI Consortium

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

- Travel, lodging, and meals to the four-day HTI Professional Development Conference
- Honorarium and travel expenses for a mentor to support the student and to visit the student's institution
- \$500 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
- \$500 to fund networking opportunities

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

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

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

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



# HTI MEMBER COUNCIL & STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HTI is grateful to the 2022–2023 members of the HTI Member Council and Steering Committee for their dedication and service to the education of Latinx scholars.

## Member Council & Steering Committee Chair

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

## Council Members

### John Reeve

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

### Douglas Weaver

Interim Chair of the Religion Department  
Baylor University

### G. Sujin Pak

Dean of the School of Theology  
Boston University

### Newell Williams

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

### Jan Love

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

### Lori Anne Ferrel

Dean, School of Arts & Humanities  
John D. and Lillian Maguire Distinguished Professor in the Humanities  
Claremont Graduate University

### Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan

President and Professor of Hebrew Bible  
Claremont School of Theology

### Victor D. Anderson

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

### Edwin David Aponte

Dean of the Theological School  
Drew University

### Edgardo Colón-Emeric

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

### Mark Labberton

President and Lloyd John Ogilvie Professor of Preaching  
Fuller Theological Seminary

### Javier A. Viera

President  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

### Uriah Y. Kim

President and John Dillenberger Professor of Biblical Studies  
Graduate Theological Union

### Catherine A. Brekus

Chair of the Committee on the Study of Religion and Charles Warren Professor of the History of Religion in America  
Harvard University

### Robin J. Steinke

President and Professor of Theological Ethics and Public Life  
Luther Seminary

### James Nieman

President  
Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago

### R. Scott Woodward

President  
Oblate School of Theology

### Craig C. Hill

Dean and Professor of New Testament  
Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University

### M. Craig Barnes

President and Professor of Pastoral Ministry  
Princeton Theological Seminary

### James Theodore Robinson

Interim Dean and Caroline E. Haskell Professor of the History of Judaism, Islamic Studies, and the History of Religions  
The University of Chicago Divinity School

### Serene Jones

President and Johnston Family Professor for Religion and Democracy  
Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York

### Timothy Matovina

Professor and Chair Department of Theology  
University of Notre Dame

### Emilie Townes

Dean of the Divinity School, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of Womanist Ethics and Society  
Vanderbilt Divinity School

### Marc Cortez

PhD Program Director and Knoedler Professor of Theology  
Wheaton College

## Steering Committee Members

### Raimundo César Barreto Jr.

Associate Professor of World Christianity  
Princeton Theological Seminary

### Adriana Pilar Nieto

Associate Professor and Chair of Chicana/Chicano Studies  
Metropolitan State University of Denver

### Ahida Pilarski

Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and Chair of the Theology Department  
Saint Anselm College

### Daniel Ramírez

Associate Professor of Religion  
Claremont Graduate University

### Luis Rivera Rodriguez

Senior Scholar  
Associate Professor of Theology  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

# HTI SCHOLARS' SUPPORT

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

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

- 1) US-born Latinx/Hispanic student, or  
2) born in a Spanish-speaking and/or Portuguese-speaking Latin American country or Caribbean Island
- Enrolled by a member institution

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

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

- Participation in the annual Professional Development Conference, which offers hands-on seminars led by highly-experienced faculty focused on specific levels of study, including writing, pedagogy seminars, and career orientation sessions, among others
- Assignment of a senior scholar as a mentor (for a period of up to three years) to aid the scholar in navigating the doctoral program, helping to expand the student's networking capacity, and collaborating with the student's advisor and faculty at her/his/their institution

- Networking funds to gain access to other Latinx scholarly resources, allowing for opportunities to meet and work with future colleagues at national meetings, as well as providing support for the eventual publishing of the scholar's work
- Eligibility for a \$12,000 *En Conjunto* Fellowship, for those students not awarded an HTI/Lilly Fellowship

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

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

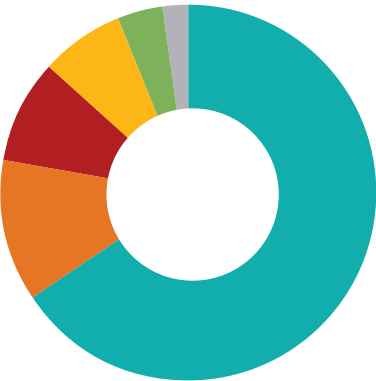
At all levels, HTI Scholars have immediate access to an ecumenical and ethnically diverse group of scholars, editors, and academic administrators with varied backgrounds and interests.

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

# HTI BUDGET 2020-2021

## INCOME

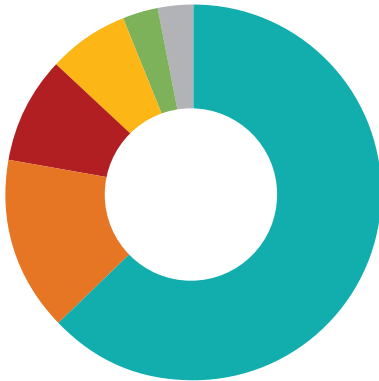
Total: \$2,442,421



- Lilly Endowment Inc. (65%) \$1,597,716
- Membership & Per Student Fees (12%) \$291,300
- Henry Luce Foundation (9%) \$225,130
- Carry Over Balance (7%) \$178,520
- Princeton Theological Seminary (4%) \$100,000
- 25th Anniversary Fundraising & Alumni Giving (2%) \$49,756

## EXPENSES

Total: \$923,345



- Scholar Support Expenses (63%) \$582,846
- Administrative Expenses (15%) \$136,711
- Public Square Expenses (9%) \$80,558
- Operating Expenses (7%) \$66,817
- Graduate Support Expenses (3%) \$29,274
- Committee Expenses (3%) \$27,139

## Administrative Expenses

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

## Incomes

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

## Excess Income

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

## Overhead and Property

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

# HTI DONORS WITH GRATITUDE

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

## VISIONARY DONORS \$5,000 AND ABOVE

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

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

Antonio Eduardo Alonso  
Eric D. Barreto  
Francisco Oscar Garcia-Treto  
Ann Hidalgo  
Jacqueline Michele Hidalgo  
Allan Johnson-Taylor  
Duane K. Kelderman  
Milagros Peña  
Raúl R. Gómez Ruiz  
Lallene J. Rector  
Luis Rivera Rodríguez

## SUPPORTERS \$500 – \$999

Xochitl Alvizo  
Aixa Beauchamp  
Elizabeth Conde-Frazier  
Neomi D. DeAnda  
Yara Gonzalez Justiniano  
Grace Lutheran Church of Malverne  
Jose R. Irizarry  
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Theresa L. Torres  
Lis Eda Valle-Ruiz  
Hector M. Varela Rios  
Alicia Vargas  
Grace Vargas

## PARTNERS \$100 – \$499

Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians  
Efrain Agosto  
Victor Aloyo Jr.  
Xochitl Alvizo  
Wendy Monique Arce  
Ruth-Aimee Belonni-Rosario Govens  
Margarita Benitez  
Rebecca M. Berru Davis  
Karen Sue Boehk  
M. Daniel Carroll  
Casarella, Peter J.  
Tommy Ayala Casarez  
Hilquias B. Cavalcanti  
João Chaves  
Edgardo Colon-Emeric  
Lucila Crena  
Maria Teresa Davila  
Patricia Deeney  
Marlene M. Ferreras  
Ángel J. Gallardo Villafan  
Doris Garcia-Rivera  
Alberto Garcia  
Leonel Guardado  
Karen Hernandez Granzen  
Lydia Hernandez Marcial  
Jefferson Lee  
Jan Love  
Francisco Lozada Jr.  
Nora Lozano-Diaz  
Michael A. Mata  
Roberto Mata  
Sue McDougal  
Néstor Medina  
Maria Monteiro  
Mary Elizabeth Moore

Matilde Kathleen Moros  
Clella Murray  
Melissa Pagán  
Altagracia Perez-Bullard  
Zaida Maldonado Perez  
Ahida E. Pilarski  
Maribel Piña-Camacho  
Presbyterian Publishing House  
Patrick B. Reyes  
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Nelson Rivera-Garcia  
Mayra Rivera  
Diana E. Rodriguez Click  
Joanne Rodríguez  
Jose D. Rodríguez  
Rady Roldan-Figueroa  
Carmelo Rolón Santos  
Miguel J. Romero  
Jennie Lee Salas  
Angel Daniel Santiago-Vendrell  
Daniel Schipani  
Angela M. Schoepf  
Theodore A. Smith Jr.  
Kathryn Smith  
Elizabeth Tamez  
Alma D. Tinoco-Ruiz  
Christopher D. Tirres  
Edwin Villafañe  
Melissa Wiginton  
John D. Witvliet

## FRIENDS < \$100

Andres Roberto Albertson  
Sammy Alfaro  
Suzette Aloyo  
Cyndi Y. Alvizo  
Melisa Marie Ortiz Berry

Patricia Bonilla  
Joseph Collazo  
Joel A. Cruz-Hiraldo  
Jeremy V. Cruz  
Iliana De Larkin  
Thomas Vincent Flores  
Barbara F. Flythe  
Roger Garcia  
Evita Giron  
Justo L. Gonzalez  
Cecilia Gonzalez-Andrieu  
Michael Remedios Grigoni  
Chance Neil Julianio  
Rudy Eric Logan  
Mandy Ellene McMichael  
Andrew Guy Mangione  
Lorelei McDermott  
Miguel J. Romero  
Juan Carlos Morales  
Geoffrey Nelson-Blake  
Oswald John Nira  
Jennifer Christine Owens-Jofré  
Elaine Padilla  
Francisco Javier Peláez-Díaz  
Gerardo Rodríguez  
Gilberto Alfonso Ruiz  
Timothy J. Sandoval  
Noreen Santos  
Wanda Marie Sevey LMFT  
Eric Sias  
Crystal Silva-McCormick  
Noel Adam Snyder  
Joanne Solis-Walker  
Andrea L. Stanton  
Stephanie Mota Thurston  
Emilie Maureen Townes  
Efrain Velazquez  
Eunice Villaneda-Bolaños



# HTI *EN CONJUNTO* ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

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

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

Lizette M. Acosta	Jeremy Cruz	Lydia Hernandez-Marcial	Ahida Pilarski
Efraín Agosto	Joel Cruz	Francisco Herrera	Santiago Piñón
Andrés Albertson	Neomi DeAnda	Claudia Helena Herrera-Montero	Daniel Ramírez
Mariana Alessandri	Teresa Delgado	Ann Hidalgo	Matthews Reis
Sammy Alfaro	Orlando Espin	Jacqueline Hidalgo	Patrick Reyes
Antonio Alonso	Raquel Feagins	Kathryn H. House	Melissa Ann Roberts
Victor Aloyo	María Eugenia Fee	José Irizarry	Gerardo Rodríguez
Xochitl Alvizo	Marlene Mayra Ferreras	Yohana Agra Junker	Luis Rivera Rodríguez
Wendy Arce	Kevin Franko	Ramón Luzarraga	Carla Elena Roland Guzmán
Stephanie Arel	Ángel Gallardo	Loida Martell	Miguel Romero
José Balcells	Alberto García	Roberto Mata	Gilberto Ruiz
Eric Barreto	Roger García	Peter Mena	Leopoldo Sánchez
Paul Barton	Julian González Holguín	Matilde Moros	Joanne Solis-Walker
Margarita Benitez	Cecilia González-Andrieu	Elias Ortega-Aponte	Kay Higuera Smith
Victor Carmona	Yara González-Justiniano	Catherine Osborne	Teresa Torres
Manuela Ceballos	Michael Granzen	Jeniffer Owens-Jofré	Charlyn Valencia
João Chaves	Leticia Guardiola Sáenz	Melissa Pagán	Héctor Varela-Rios
Joseph Collazo	Lauren Frances Guerra	Luis Pedraja	Horacio Vela
Panayotis Coutsoumpos	Cheryl L. Green	Ibrahim Pedriñán	Efraín Velázquez
Karen Denise Crozier	Karen Hernández Granzen	Francisco Javier Peláez Díaz	Teresa Yugar
		Altagracia Pérez-Bullard	

## Want to become a member?

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

# JOIN HTI

HTI continues to grow a vibrant community of Latinx scholars. This year we have **67** students from **21** member schools. We are grateful for all of our partners, and invite you to become one of them.

## Become a Member School

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

## Become an HTI Scholar

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

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

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

HTI Scholars who are All But Dissertation (ABD) by November 2022 may 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](https://htiprogram.org) and click "GIVE" at the top of the page. Contribute one time or set up a recurring gift.

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

Hispanic Theological Initiative  
12 Library Place  
Princeton, NJ 08540

## HTI STAFF



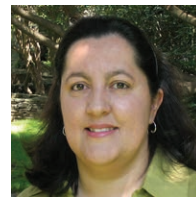
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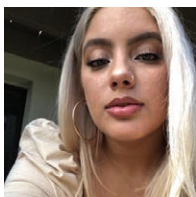


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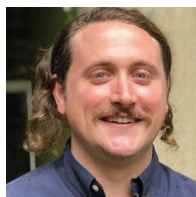
## Student Aides



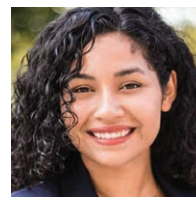
**Carlos G. Acosta, Jr., MDiv**



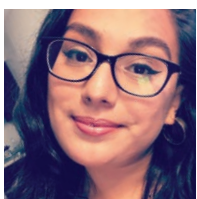
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