

2023-2024

HISPANIC
THEOLOGICAL
INITIATIVE







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

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE 2023–2024



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OUR MISSION

The Hispanic Theological Initiative's (HTI) mission is cultivating Latine PhDs for leadership positions in the academy, the church, and the world. With the support of the 23 Consortium member institutions, the mission and vision of HTI revolve around three major goals:

1. Increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latine PhD students across the nation by uniting and leveraging institutional resources (human, financial, and infrastructural).
2. Increase the presence of Latine 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 Latine faculty and students in theological and religious education.



FROM THE DIRECTOR



At the heart of the Hispanic Theological Initiative's (HTI) mission is the cultivation of scholars/leaders who have been formed by their community, intellectually advanced in the academy, and prepared via HTI's programming to serve the larger ecology of theological and religious education.

It is joyful and exciting to discover new ways and opportunities to serve HTI scholars and graduates, and to witness the new vocational paths they are taking, as well as their contributions at developing new curriculum, programming, lectures, monographs, etc. Having to adjust to a new era of hybridity, however, is quite a tall order, especially as technology continues to evolve at such a rapid pace. It is daunting, to say the least—but when I take a breath, this journey is still exhilarating.

This year's cover of HTI's annual brochure appropriately features a butterfly—a symbol of hope, metamorphosis, and new beginnings—bridging two hills on which individuals/institutions, at different stages in their journey, support one another towards reaching their goals. Through the commitment of dedicated member schools, funders, mentors, editors, faculty members, and partners, HTI's *en conjunto* support has been the bridge that holistically nurtures scholars as they work to finish their doctorate and become contributors to the larger ecology of theological and religious education. The cover represents a powerful beacon of growth and new beginnings, the power of transformation, and the incredible feats HTI scholars must achieve to reach the finish line.

It is with this springtime metaphor of transformation that HTI welcomes the 70 Scholars enrolled for the 2023–2024 academic year. Beginning on page 6, you can read the HTI Scholars' bios and learn about their journeys and aspirations.

We are grateful and overjoyed to share the number of ways HTI has grown wings and evolved during this past academic year of 2022–2023. Among the wonderful moments of growth and achievements that transpired are nine successful dissertation defenses, which raise the number of HTI graduates to 165! These HTI graduates continue to be employed in full-time positions in the academy, the church, and in non-profit organizations that advance theological and religious education.

En conjunto with funders, and partners, HTI expanded its program offerings. In April 2023, the first cohort of women completed the Latinas in Leadership program, introduced in September of 2021, with the support of the Lilly Endowment Inc. Additionally, a Trinity Church Wall Street grant enabled HTI to build and offer the Professional Development Conference (PDC) fully online to 25 HTI Scholars and non-enrolled PhD students.

In August of 2022, HTI, the Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), and Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA) developed and began offering jointly the Latine Doctoral Accompaniment Seminar (LDAS) to prepare master-level students to write strong applications for admissions to PhD programs and for fellowships.

With your ongoing support of time, treasure, and talent, HTI works with excitement to advance Latine scholarship and leadership across the broader landscape of theological and religious education. As demonstrated by its history, HTI believes in the "butterfly effect," trusting that seemingly small actions do impact larger systems and future generations. We thank you for working with HTI and encourage you to stay connected and to give for the betterment of individuals and communities across the nation and the world.

Blessings,

Joanne Rodríguez
Executive Director



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 for 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. As a result, 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 Latine PhD students. Today, the Consortium stands at 23 members. In 2010, HTI was awarded the Examples of *Excelencia* award at the graduate-level from ¡*Excelencia* in Education!, catapulting the HTI vision and model into the larger landscape of education in the United States. Since then, HTI is known as the "411 Hub" for Latine 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 Latine social issues.

Also in 2017, HTI received a planning grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. titled, "Synergies to Nurture, Improve, and Advance Latine 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), a virtual gathering space to amplify Latine voices in the global public space through blogs, podcasts, and HTI Video Talks. Open Plaza is uniquely designed for Latine intellectuals in religion and theology to connect with a broader audience and exchange resources and ideas that contribute to advancing the well-being of Latine 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 Latine 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?



64% Male
36% Female



4 deans
4 presidents
In higher education



15
Denominations

35%
Ordained



101
Full-time
educators

63
Leaders in
administration,
research, and
ministry

WHAT HAS HTI ACHIEVED?



**48 master's &
165 doctoral
students supported**

92% of HTI students earn
their graduate degrees
in an average of 5.5 years

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

35% are tenured
29% are on tenured track



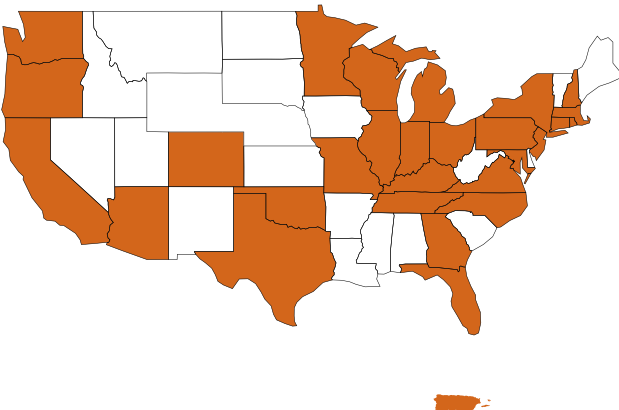
**276 Published
books by
86 HTI scholars**

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

Honored 17
Book Prize winners

WHERE ARE HTI GRADUATES NOW?

3 continents & 7 countries



28 States and Puerto Rico



**Brazil
Canada
Costa Rica
Mexico
Peru
Taiwan**

Academic institutions

Denominations

Congregations

Nonprofit organizations

Media/publishing organizations

Government agencies

Health organizations

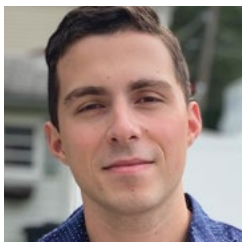
**Professional/educational
organizations**



HTI SCHOLARS 2023–2024

First-Year Doctoral Scholars

These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2023–2024 academic year.



Luis N. Alvarado

BA, Columbia University / MA, University of Chicago Divinity School / PhD, University of Chicago (present)

Luis and his family are originally from Newark, New Jersey. His father's family is Puerto Rican, and his mother's family is Italian. Raised as a Roman Catholic, Luis' home parish is a predominantly Latin American and Caribbean Hispanic community of recent immigrants to the United States, facing the dual challenges of urban poverty and adjusting to a new country. Their faith experience was essential to Luis's spiritual and theological formation and has motivated his desire to pursue academic theological work. After completing his BA at Columbia University and taking courses in theology at Fordham University while working there full-time, Luis eventually decided to pursue master's and doctoral-level studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He hopes to explore both the historical and systematic explication of Catholic theology and its relationship to philosophy, particularly on issues related to the doctrine of God and God's relationship to the natural world.



Hannah Baz-Garza

BA, Abilene Christian University / MAR, Yale Divinity School / PhD, Yale University (present)

Hannah was born and raised in Houston, Texas to Mexican-American parents. Having a deep interest in a ministerial career, she went to Abilene Christian University to pursue a degree in Youth and Family Ministry. However, while she was there, she fell in love with the academic study of the New Testament. Throughout the years, she has developed a strong interest in translation studies and how the various reception histories of the New Testament have contributed to harmful translations, specifically to historically minoritized people groups. She is interested in exploring how the reproductions, annotations, and overall display of New Testament manuscripts and patristic homilies provide us with still images of how communities interpreted the text. Her approach for understanding these interpretive spaces lies at the intersection of reception history, New Testament textual criticism, and hermeneutics.



Fernando Berwig Silva

BA, Universidade Estadual do Paraná, Brazil / MSM, Southern Methodist University / PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Fernando Berwig Silva is a Brazilian composer. A drummer since his teenage years, Berwig Silva has experience leading music in churches from diverse cultural backgrounds. He served three years as Coordinator of Arts Ministries at a Lutheran church in Brazil. Berwig Silva has premiered compositions at the intersection of church and concert music in Europe, the United States, and Brazil. He will focus his studies on how instances of congregational singing outside church inform faith and ritual in Latine contexts.



Rebecca Mendoza

BA, University of Oregon / MDiv, Harvard Divinity School / PhD, Harvard University (present)

Rebecca is a Xicana born and raised in Colorado and the daughter and granddaughter of migrant farm workers. Rebecca is doctoral student in the Committee for the Study of Religion at Harvard University with a focus on Latin American and Caribbean traditions. She has professional experience working in community organizing, advocacy, education, and storytelling. Broadly, Rebecca's scholarship centers Indigenous philosophy, material religion, and ritual survivance pertaining to kinship among humans, plants, animals, ancestors, and land in the Americas. Her interdisciplinary approach bridges ancient Mesoamerican materials and cosmovision with contemporary Indigenous, Mexican, and Chicanx communities. She was a Summer Pre-Columbian Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, a Graduate Student Associate at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, and a Ford PreDoctoral Fellow. Rebecca wrote her masters thesis on the topic of copalli (copal), an aromatic tree resin and incense central to rituals and relationships across Mesoamerica.



Laura Marcela Montoya Cifuentes

BA, Universidad Nacional de Colombia / MDiv, Boston University / PhD, Emory University (present)

Laura Montoya is from Bogotá, Colombia. She is a psychologist who devoted several years to serve communities affected by her country's 60 years of war. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Master of Divinity program at Boston University School of Theology in 2022 and will start her PhD in Religious Studies at Emory University-Laney Graduate School. Her academic interests are in Liberation Theologies, Feminist Studies, Sociology of Religion, and Pentecostalism. Laura worked as Health Justice Coordinator for a non-profit in Chelsea, Massachusetts, advocating for the health rights of Latine Communities.



Michelle Elizabeth Navarrete

BA, North Central College / MA, Evangel University / MA, Wheaton College / PhD, Emory University (present)

Michelle was born in Park Ridge, Illinois as a daughter of Mexican immigrants. Taking her first Religion course in college fueled her love for the academic study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. As a second-generation Latina who lives between the Mexican and American cultures, faith and culture inevitably intersect in her research, which is conducted through historical, sociological, literary, and theological approaches. She stays connected with the Latine community in hopes of bridging the church and the academy more fully. People are part of her passion, and she wants her work to reflect that. More specifically, Michelle is interested in lament, liturgy, exile, marginality, structural sin, and the poetic and prophetic that embodies all those things.



Cristian Antoni Piazzetta

BTh, Adventist University of Sao Paulo / MTS Harvard Divinity School / PhD Harvard University (present)

Cristian was born and raised in the south of Brazil. He is an ordained minister in the Seventh-day Adventist tradition and focuses his studies on the New Testament and Early Christianity. His research interests include the literary production of early Jewish/Christian authors, particularly those who wrote ancient apocalypses. Cristian is interested in understanding how these ancient apocalyptic texts (canonical and noncanonical) advance important notions other than eschatological ones that profoundly shaped the beliefs, traditions, and practices of early Christians. In addition, he is interested in the uptake of ancient apocalyptic rhetoric, concepts, and imageries in modern political, social, and religious discourses, which often resort to apocalyptic motifs to support or condemn a series of modern issues; thus, deeply shaping our contemporary society.

To summarize the impact of the HTI in a few words is an impossible task. No other program or institution had done more to develop a growing community of Latinx scholars, teachers, activists, presidents, and deans. No other program or institution has done more to nurture and to support that growing community as it stands firm on the need for radical changes in the entire field of graduate theological education. No other program or institution deserves more than the HTI to be supported, expanded, and emulated.

Dr. Justo L. González

Former HTI Executive Director
Retired Professor of Historical Theology
Author

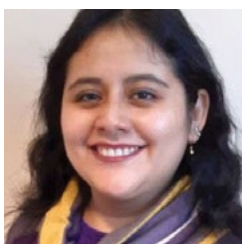




Natalie Readnour

BA, Austin College / MDiv, Boston University School of Theology / PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Natalie was born in Richardson, Texas to a Mexican father and a white mother. After being separated from her father due to migration-related issues, Natalie realized the profound impact of migration and borders on the Mexican-American identity, especially among those living in Texas. Her research aims to examine the issues embedded in the process of migration and the creation of borders that profoundly impact the Tejano community's sense of belonging and identity as they are caught between two cultures. Natalie hopes that her research will articulate ideas that allow for Tejanos who feel disconnected from their culture to reclaim that heritage and resist forces that call on them to let their *raíces* fade quietly into nothingness.



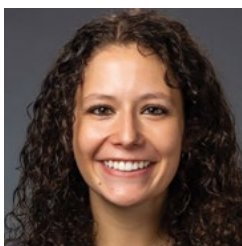
Nataly Lucia Romero Maita

BA, Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana, Peru / BA, Universidad Alas Peruanas, Peru / MDiv, Boston University School of Theology / PhD, Boston University (present)

Nataly is originally from Peru. Her research will focus on the Bible, mainly in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), and its analysis from the feminist perspective, considering Latin American contexts. In the patriarchal societies where she comes from, sex is taboo, and the oppressive patriarchal system handles women's bodies similarly. In this regard, she will center her research on the text of Song of Songs, sexuality, and motherhood (childbirth) in the Hebrew Bible. Considering the Bible as an authoritative book, especially within Christianity in Latin America, Nataly's objective is to respond with interpretations that respond liberally in the middle of patriarchal contexts. She is an ordained elder in the Methodist Church of Peru.

Second-Year Doctoral Scholars

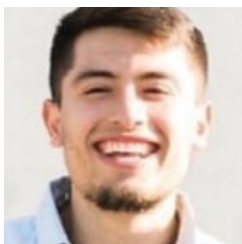
These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2023–2024 academic year.



Amanda Rachel Bolaños

BA, Boston College / MA, University of Notre Dame / MTS, 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 is interested in researching the intersection between virtue theory and liberation theology, yearning to offer a real, pastoral, and critical perspective in looking at the systematic success and harm of religion in communities. 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. Amanda 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.



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 pursue 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 the 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.

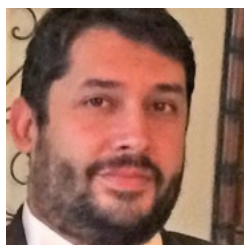




Luis Javier De Prada

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.



Jibreel Delgado Trabal

BA, University of South Florida / MA, University of Arizona / PhD, Graduate Theological Union (present)

Jibreel was born in New Jersey to Puerto Rican parents. His undergraduate education was in creative writing and American studies. Graduate studies in Middle Eastern, Arabic, and Islamic studies have taken him to Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, where he has performed research and presented at international conferences. His current interests are in sociocultural and international history concerning key regional focal points in the Americas, the Iberian Peninsula, and the Middle East/North and West Africa, and concentrating on decolonial cultural strategies in religion and the arts (literature, cinema, and music) throughout the long twentieth century.



Jose S. Diaz

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

Jose Diaz was born in Mexico. At age 15, he moved with his mother to California, learned English as a Second Language, and after finishing high school, he returned to his home country and studied at Universidad de Morelos. After acquiring a Masters 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. He has 20 years of experience as an educator and is the founder of the first Dual Language School in Berrien County, Michigan. His research interests include the application of Discourse Analysis to Petrine and Johannine Writings. Jose is passionate about teaching Biblical Languages, mainly Koine Greek, and would like to make an impact by introducing teaching methods developed by the study of Applied Linguistics/Second Language Acquisition. He currently teaches Koine Greek at Andrews Academy and has been tutoring Greek for the past two years at Andrews University.



Heber Eduardo García Zárate

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

Heber was born in Chiapas, Mexico. Since he was very young, he has been involved in different religious activities, especially in youth ministries. While studying for his BA at Morelos University in Mexico, he had the opportunity to participate in a student exchange program in Brazil, where he appreciated the culture, language, and academics. In 2008 he began ministering in his home state. After two years, he moved to Michigan to study for his MDiv, completing it in 2013. He returned to Chiapas to minister for another seven years. In 2021, Heber returned to Michigan to begin his doctoral program in Church History. His deep desire is to serve people by providing opportunities to know Jesus better while using history as a powerful resource.

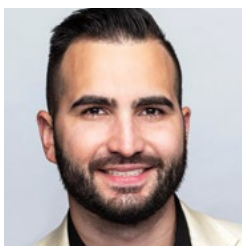




Leslie Garrote

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

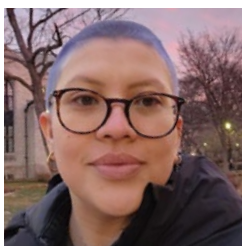
Born in St. Paul, Minnesota to a mother from South Carolina and a Cuban father, Leslie has lived in multi-cultural settings and has been drawn to cross-cultural living her entire life. After serving as a teacher and administrator in high-needs schools for fifteen years, Leslie began transitioning career 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 contexts. Leslie has spent many summer months in Cuba, including a semester studying at the University of Havana, where her cousins helped refine her Spanish and navigate the complexities of the island. Leslie currently studies the history of American Christianity with an emphasis on contemporary issues of race and gender.



Joryán Hernández

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

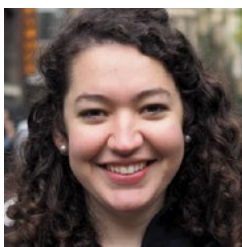
Joryán was born in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba, and immigrated to the United States when he was nine years old. As a PhD student in Peace Studies and Theology, his research interests are at the intersection of trauma, displacement, theologies of hope, and peacebuilding. He is particularly interested in researching how religious actors alleviate the traumas of displacement and present theologies of hope in and for the Cuban-American community in a holistic way that acknowledges the different lived experiences of immigrants. His goal is to create awareness within religious institutions of the harm endured by those that they are called to serve, encourage them to better serve their community, and include them in the political process of liberating Latines from immutable governments. 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.*"



Paola Marquez Leones

MDiv, Drew Theological School, PhD, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (present)

Originally from Colombia, Paola's transdisciplinary research blends together ethics, critical pedagogies, critical race theory, and political theory to probe the formation of Mestizaje throughout Latin America. Their analysis allows for an assessment of how historical constructions of Mestizaje have influenced Latine and Latin American Theologies.



Amirah Orozco

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

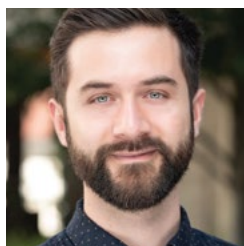
Originally from the Border between El Paso, Texas, and Juárez, Chihuahua, Amirah is currently a PhD student with a concentration in Systematic Theology. She is interested in Latina feminista and *mujerista* theologies, especially Catholic ecclesiology, and the decolonial turn.



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 trips to Mexico during his undergraduate studies, he became interested in Pentecostalism in the Latin American context. His travels continued throughout Central America before permanently settling in Uruguay in 2011. As a researcher, Jacob wants to hear how Pentecostalism contextualized and grew in Latin America from the perspectives of local agents who have been overlooked in the written histories of Western missionaries. To hear and share these stories, Jacob is developing a decolonizing methodology for the study of Classical Pentecostal missions' history in South America's southern cone.



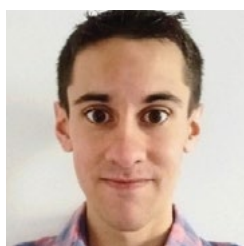
Eric Daniel Villalobos

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 is trained in Hindi, ancient Prakrit, and ancient Sanskrit.

Comprehensive Exam-Year Scholars

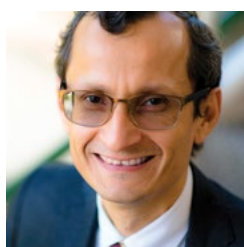
These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2023–2024 academic year.



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, Brazil / MBA, Universidade Cruzeiro do Sul, Brazil / MDiv, Andrews University / PhD, Andrews University (present)

Mabio is a pastor and Bible scholar who is passionate about making the Bible plain and simple for others. He believes this is the only way to neutralize long-held misunderstandings that contributed to totally defacing Christianity and hindering 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 an urban ministries coordinator, pastor, and clinic/lifestyle center director at the Central Amazon Conference (Brazil) before moving to the General Conference.

I am proud of the extraordinary accomplishments of the HTI over the last 25 years—the impact on so many students who are now scholars and leaders impacting our community. Little did I know that the work that several of us did to lay the groundwork through the research, startup proposal to Pew, and later planning for the restructuring of the HTI into a consortium, would bear such extraordinary fruit. Its continuing success is a testament to the solidarity between students, leaders, institutions, and funders who see in it a beacon of opportunity to serve our religious communities and institutions.

Dr. Edwin I. Hernández

Executive Director
Louisville Institute





Austin Mathew Cruz

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

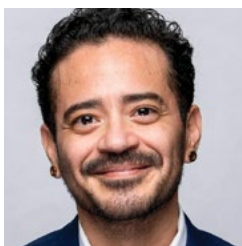
Austin is a native Texan of Mexican-American descent. Raised in a Houston suburb, it was only when he formally studied theology that he gained an appreciation for the Latine expressions of the Catholic faith in which he was formed. Austin's research interests include the medieval genre of hagiography and the power of story in conversion and Christian discipleship. He is also interested in the historic development of the cult of the saints, and the process of canonization. A particular focus of Austin's is the hagiography and the development of the cult of Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin and other saints of Colonial Spain. Austin has further interest in the spiritual practices and development of early modern Europe and the Americas. He hopes that examining and critiquing the hagiographical, catechetical, and spiritual sources of this period will help offer a greater and more nuanced understanding of the history of Christianity. Austin hopes to serve both the Church and academia by expanding access to theological education in underserved communities, especially Latine communities.



Stephen Di Trollo Coakley

BA, University of Valley Forge / MDiv, Princeton Theological Seminary / PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary (present)

Stephen is a PhD student in the Department of History and Ecumenics at Princeton Theological Seminary, focusing on World Christianity and History of Religions. Stephen 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, taught at a local seminary, and also worked alongside rural education projects in Nicaragua before coming to Princeton. His research interests include Latin American political history, Pentecostalism in Argentina, social movements, political theology, and decolonial theory. In addition to the above-mentioned degrees, he has completed coursework in the Sociology of Culture program at the Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina.



Damien Domenack

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

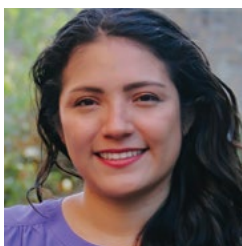
Damien is a Peruvian immigrant raised in Southern California. He is a Santero Priest and a candidate for ordination in the Unitarian Universalist tradition whose ministry centers Queer, Transgender, Black, and Brown immigrant communities of which he is a part. The formative Evangelical immigrant communities 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.



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.



Katherine Guerrero

BA, The University of Texas at Austin / MDiv, Duke University / PhD, Yale University (present)

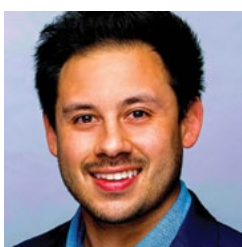
At the age of fifteen, Katherine and her mother journeyed through the US-Mexican border to resettle in the United States. Her migrant and border crossing experiences inform her interest in the religious structures that sustain modern systems of legality and illegality; and the ways we might engage border crossings journeys as embodied acts that unsettle colonial racial structures and grant us new ways of seeing humanity, legality, and space. Katherine has worked closely with Latine congregations, local pastors, and community organizations in both Texas and North Carolina. She is a 2022 Fellow with the Louisville Institute and 2021 Graduate Fellow with Yale's Center for Race Indigeneity and Transnational Migration (RITM).



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 Latine 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.



Jacob Leal

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

Jacob is a Mexican-American born and raised in Texas whose research is influenced by his *abuela's* stories of visitations from deceased loved ones—ancestral veneration is an important aspect of Mexican culture that informs everyday life. Jacob will use decolonial theory and trauma studies to explore the continuing presence of the dead in the present and to show how the belief in our ancestor's presence with us is rooted in a precolonial understanding of time, space, and death. He believes the Mexican belief in the presence of the dead is one of many fragments passed down to us from our indigenous ancestors. In his research, Jacob hopes to expose the negative Western label of ancestral visitations, which deem interactions with the dead as taboo, as a continuation of the colonial project. Jacob is particularly interested in biblical passages such as Matthew 17:1-3 (the Mount of Transfiguration) and reading them as "*Día de los Muertos* moments" in the Bible. His passion for theological research and training continues to grow the more he realizes the importance of inclusive academic spaces that create opportunities for Latines, like his *abuela*, to tell their stories. He strives to be a professor whose office is a safe space for students of marginalized identities, especially those within the Latine 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 nine years. In addition to his ministerial commitments, Jesús also works towards strengthening Hispanic scholarship as adjunct faculty of McCormick Theological Seminary. Jesús believes that a serious engagement of contemporary Hispanic Christianity must consider the significant impact of Charismatic and Pentecostal communities. Working through interdisciplinary history and theology, his research interest includes an exploration of Latin American revival movements and their role in shaping pneumatology in Hispanic Pentecostal and Charismatic imagination.



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 alienation as one who was neither completely from the United States or the Island. This experience as part of the Puerto Rican diaspora is central to Emanuel's research and ministry interests. He is pursuing doctoral studies to construct a theology of disalienation that recaptures the history of colonization, reshapes conceptions of identity, and informs ecclesial discipleship. Emanuel's desire is to serve the Church through non-traditional educational ministries. He does this as founder and president of World Outspoken and co-host of the Mestizo Podcast.



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, Dri 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 Latine Theology and Ministry *en conjunto* with Latine 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)

Kenia Vanessa was born in La Paz, Bolivia and was then raised in the DC metropolitan area. After a few years of practicing immigration law in the area of deportation defense within the Latine community, Kenia Vanessa was baptized within a US protestant church, which propelled her study on the role of religion and social ethics concerning the lived experience of Latinas and her community using a *Mujerista* critique. Her interest areas also include Liberation and Postcolonial Theologies, Decoloniality, Decolonial Feminist Theology, Christian Social Ethics, Cultural Studies, Critical Race Theory, and Bioethics.



KMarie Tejeda

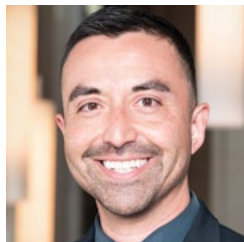
AA, Hostos Community College / BA, Hunter College / MDiv, Harvard Divinity School / STM, Boston University / PhD, Boston University (present)

KMarie was born and raised in the Dominican Republic and immigrated to the United States in her early twenties. Her research focuses on exploring the role and manifestation of the Holy Spirit and spirits. She believes that the academic study of the Holy Spirit and spirits is a topic that has not been explored enough due to its subjective nature. Nevertheless, she contends that academic study does not undermine such experiences, and it demonstrates a deep respect for the diversity of spiritual experiences.



Proposal and Research Scholars

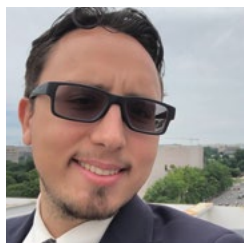
These scholars have passed comprehensive exams and are at the early stages of their dissertation proposal. They have been assigned an HTI editor for the 2023–2024 academic year.



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.

The seeds planted during the years spent with HTI during my doctoral studies continue to bear great fruit, especially in these times of significant change in the academy, the church, and the world. The practical formation HTI provides prepared me not only for the immediate goals of completing my PhD, but also for the long arc of a career that is still unfolding. I continually draw upon the wisdom of mentors and teachers I encountered during my summer weeks at Princeton Theological Seminary. But most of all, HTI has provided me with the most significant and lasting comunidad of friends and colleagues who sustain me through their wisdom, humor, and solidarity in these challenging times.

Dr. Antonio (Tony) Alonso

Aquinas Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture; Director of Catholic Studies
Candler School of Theology, Emory University





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. Currently, he works as a coordinator on a project developed in partnership with professors from the Institute of World Mission of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to equip lay people. 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 to bridge his passion and this need.



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.



Jon-Paul Lapeña

AA, College of the Desert: Palm Desert / BA, San Diego State University / MDiv, Harvard University / PhD, Yale Divinity School (present)

Jon-Paul is a first-generation college student born to farm workers. He was raised Pentecostal in the Coachella Valley desert of California. Jon-Paul studies the New Testament and early Christianity, broadly on the topic of healing and health practices in the ancient Mediterranean. He is specifically interested in exploring and critically engaging interpretations of "addiction" in the New Testament and its role in community health.

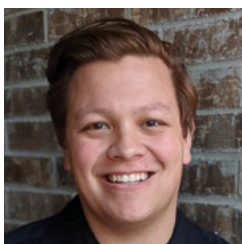




Daniel Montañez

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, philosophy, migration, Pentecostalism, and Latine studies. Daniel's 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.



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 Latine theology, particularly *mujerista*, liberation, Latine, and decolonization studies.



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.



Dissertation Year Scholars

These scholars are writing their dissertations. Each will receive editorial assistance throughout the 2023–2024 academic year.



Gonzalo R. Alers

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

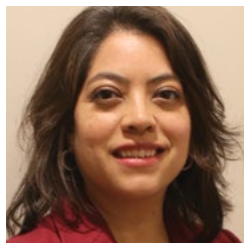
Gonzalo is a native of Puerto Rico. His academic interests are the critical study of the New Testament (the Gospels and the Book of Revelation), Early Christianity, Non-canonical literature, and the Greek language. His research engages the intersection of postcolonial and decolonial theories, New Testament narratives, *la puertorriqueñidad*, and the myriad of hermeneutical implications. The goal is to provoke new conversations toward an awareness of the socio-political situations in a territory marginalized by more than five centuries of foreign domination.



Michael J. Anderson

BA, McKendree University / MA, Claremont School of Theology / PhD, Drew University (present)

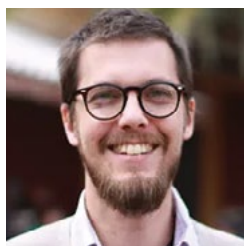
Michael Anderson is a PhD candidate in the Theological and Philosophical Studies in Religion (TPSR) area at Drew. His primary research interest lies in the intersection between philosophy and theology, especially in relation to concerns of intimacy, love, and desire. His dissertation examines the development of the concept of friendship as it emerged in Greek and Roman antiquity until contemporary times. This project presently imagines what it might mean to think of friendship as a kind of “everyday mysticism” shared between at least two people. This practice—in its phenomenological and existential expression—is, what he thinks, a mutual attempt at god-making, which is to say, a queer practice of freedom. Beyond his work on friendship, Michael is concerned with questions of identity and belonging.



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 Latine 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 theological influence on Paul's writings. 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" Coustompous, Jr.**

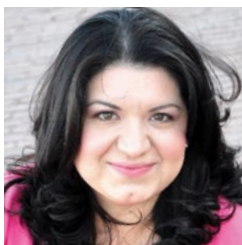
BA, Columbia Union College (now, Washington Adventist University) / MDiv, Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University / PhD, Claremont Graduate University (present)

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.

**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/liberation theologies.

**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.

Imagine a brightly colored trenza, ribbons creatively woven and now in the hands of students. The students marvel as they recognize communally inspired scholarly voices, unveiling complex stories. Inspired, they dialogue with professors who nurture them through sometimes baffling systems. At multiple institutions, HTI educated teacher-scholars and administrators come together to discern projects, transform processes, and grow what it possible—in each of their hands a ribbon. HTI is the source where interconnected stories begin, weaving us together in memory and future. We know we belong to each other and intertwined in hope, we thrive.

Cecilia González-Andrieu

Professor of Theology and Theological Aesthetics
Loyola Marymount University
Contributing writer, *America Magazine*





Alfredo García Garza

BA, Texas A&M University / BS, Texas A&M University / MDiv, Harvard Divinity School / PhD, Harvard University (present)

During his Master of Divinity program at Harvard Divinity School, Alfredo was inspired to research the irreplaceable presence and powers of *curanderos* (magico-religious healers), spirits, gods, and God in the lives of Mexican migrants. His doctoral research focuses on the life, healing ceremonies, and ritual legacy of *El Niño Fidencio*, a renowned “folk” saint and *curandero* of the early 20th century. Alfredo grew up in an *ejido*, an agricultural town, in Coahuila MX—where his family introduced him to a local *misión*/church where *El Niño Fidencio*’s ceremonies were carried out by *cajas* or *materias*; ritual specialists possessed by the spirit of the original healer. Over time, Alfredo began to witness the ties between the healing work of Fidencio’s ritual descendants and the trauma suffered by Mexican migrants. Grounded in the phenomenological methods of comparative religion and existential anthropology, his work seeks to understand how migrants recover—through ritual action—from ongoing political and spiritual violence in the US-México borderlands.



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 congregational and interfaith organizing that integrates racial, economic, and environmental-eco justice efforts. Francisco’s doctoral project involves the development of grassroots, social movement-oriented ecclesiologies outside of formal church structures through an exploration of faith practices among Latine/immigrant workers organizing in their workplaces and communities. Francisco serves on the leadership team of the Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice at Vanderbilt Divinity School as a Graduate Research Fellow. He also serves as an Assistant Chaplain for Justice Ministries at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Chapel in Nashville.

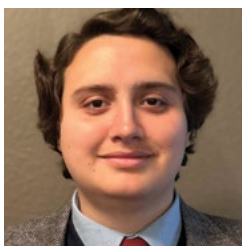


Francisco Herrera

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)

After completing undergraduate studies in viola and orchestra conducting, Francisco Herrera would come to both the Christian faith and Lutheran theology while continuing his music studies in Geneva, Switzerland. While there, he also discovered that he was a polyglot—adding French and Spanish to the German and English he spoke on arrival—which in turn enabled him to immerse himself in intensive intercultural work, whether as a language teacher, an interpreter for religious and secular NGOs, or in day-to-day life in a “UN town.” Returning to the United States to begin divinity studies in 2005, he received his MDiv from Chicago Theological Seminary in 2012 and began his PhD studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2013. He quickly became involved in activism for justice and inclusion within his home denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and the broader United States. His primary academic interests orbit anything and everything around the study, support, and creation of intersectional church culture and community, Lutheran theology, post-colonial/decolonial theory, and Christian socialism. As a Latino scholar and activist, he also has a deep interest in Gloria Anzaldúa’s concept of “*neplantlera*” as a grounding for the development of intersectional identity and sensitivity in individuals and communities.





Chance Juliano

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

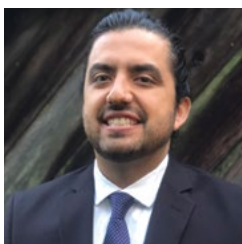
Chance Juliano is a Mexican-American born and raised on the plains of the Texas Panhandle. Throughout his undergraduate and graduate career, he was trained in the areas of Biblical studies, theology, and philosophy. Chance's current research interests lie in areas related to classical conceptions of God, liberation theology, and analytic theology. Within his dissertation, Chance is writing on the compatibility between a classical conception of God (with classical divine attributes such as aseity, simplicity, and 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.



Joshua Mendez

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

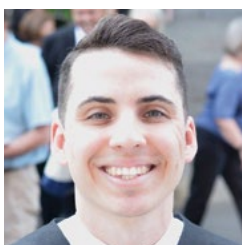
Joshua is the son of Puerto Rican and Chilean parents. He grew up in Puerto Rico and moved to the United States at eight years old. As an interdisciplinary scholar, Joshua's research interrogates the relationship between the colonial encounter, the emergence of the capitalist mode of production, and 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.



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 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.



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 Latine preaching tradition and is specifically interested in how preaching can address and redress the historical trauma of dictatorship and migration. His doctoral dissertation is focused on the Dominican experience under and after the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo.



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 figuratively. 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)

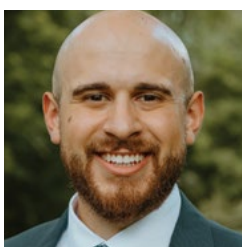
As an Afro-Puerto Rican woman, Alexandra is interested in discussing how the colonial assemblages of race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and citizenship have worked to control the bodies of racialized women in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Central to her academic approach is decolonial theory, black feminist thought, and Afro-Caribbean feminist activism thought. Her burning desire is to rearticulate ethical and moral socio-religious valuations around racialized women in Puerto Rico and offer refreshed lenses that promote a more precise vision to an alternative decolonial reality.



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 to combat a culture of disgrace. Elyssa employs teaching and poetry to connect to her audience at a poetry slam or in a classroom.



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, life, and ancestors. These experiences sparked his interest in the study of the New Testament and Christian origins. Under Dr. Mikeal Parsons, he is currently writing a dissertation on tax collectors and soldiers in Luke and Acts. Treating these professions as agents and representatives of Roman imperial power, Christian argues that Luke portrays God infiltrating the Empire and turning its agents to serve the economy and security of God's own kingdom. Hoping to teach at a university or seminary, Christian aims to bring Scripture, early Christianity, God, and our stories together for conversations that promote liberation, empowerment, and creativity in Christ.

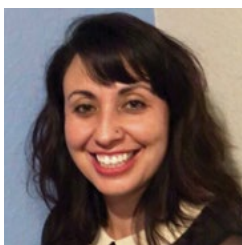




Yolanda Michelle Santiago Correa

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

Yolanda was born and raised in the archipelago of Puerto Rico. Her academic work and interests focus on Puerto Rico, Afro-Latinidad, music, and the relationship between racial and religious identity and imagination. In addition to her role as Program Coordinator for the Hispanic House of Studies at Duke Divinity School, Yolanda is a creator and co-host of *Majestad Prieta: A Podcast on Blackness in Latin America, the Caribbean, y la Diáspora*, and a team member of the AfroLatiné Theology Project.



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 Latine 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.

One of HTI's greatest gifts to me as a doctoral student has been its steadfast commitment to my overall wellbeing and success in the program. Since my first year of doctoral studies, HTI has worked tirelessly to connect me with a community of care and academic support. Annual conferences and ongoing communication from our HTI family has reminded me that I am not alone in the process y que en verdad, sí se puede con el apoyo de nuestra comunidad. Without the resources, financial support, and mentors that have advocated on my behalf and prepared me for the challenges that each year presented during my doctoral studies, I would not have had the positive experience that I can say I've had to date. The road has not been easy, but HTI makes it possible each time. ¡Gracias por todo!

Dr. Arelis (Aly) Benitez

Director of Field Education

Assistant Professor of the Practice of Religion, Psychology, and Culture

Vanderbilt University

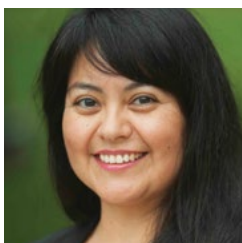




Matthew Vega

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

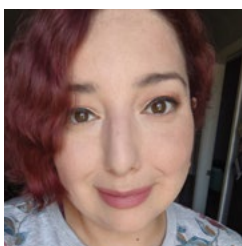
Matthew is a student, writer, and teacher. The topic of his dissertation is the intersections of Blackness, Mexicanness, and Religion. He teaches in the Theology Department at Dominican University and has spoken overseas at international conferences. He is an avid writer, who has written and co-written several chapters for different publishers, including Fortress Academic and Lexington Books. He regularly contributes to The Political Theology Network and Sojourners, where his essays explore the intersections of race and religion.



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 migrated to the United States when she was five with her mother and two younger siblings. Her undergraduate research focused on severe mental illness and burden of care in Mexican American communities of California's central valley. Noemi's master's research focused on 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 is an adjunct professor at Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary and a Teaching Assistant at Southern Methodist University. Noemi's research interests include socio theological racial formation, womanist and Latina feminist theologies, borderland epistemologies, virtue and migration Ethics, and theologies of *buen vivir*. Noemi hopes to contribute to anti-racialization work within the Christian church and *en conjunto* with her communities.



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 has explored the role of women and gender among early Christianities as well as the role of individual and communal identity within them. Eunice's dissertation research revolves around the Marco-Valentinian phenomenon, an event in which a woman prophesied and became a prophetess during a eucharistic meal. This phenomenon reveals the existence of female prophets in this Christian community that was later suppressed. Eunice's dissertation aims to determine what it meant to be a female prophet in Valentinian Christianity through a model developed from a historical and cross-cultural investigation and how it fits in its larger Mediterranean Greco-Roman environment. This is intrinsically important as it will add to the history of Christianity and the role that women played in it.



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 Bogotá, Colombia. He has served as a regular preacher and biblical teacher in Pentecostal, Presbyterian, and Anglican communities in Colombia, the United States, and Wales (UK). Currently, he serves as the director of the Spanish Academic Program at Trinity School for Ministry and is discerning a call to ordained ministry in the ACNA. David is interested in understanding how the Hebrew prophets used the future to lead their people into action. He is convinced that a proper understanding of the future will serve as a model for the present, transformative action of the Latine church and society at large. Such a model challenges the religious escapism and cultural fatalism created by current formulations of the future. In line with this conviction, David's dissertation examines the rhetorical function of the future in the book of Zechariah. Through his doctoral formation, David is committed to forming leaders for the Latine's church and society.



HTI OPEN PLAZA



OPEN PLAZA

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

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

It is precisely this public square image that is the driving factor for your Hispanic Theological Initiative's **Open Plaza** (htiopenplaza.org), 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 Latine 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 Latine 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 Latine 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 Latine communities during the pandemic crisis. And in facing the evils of racism and anti-black violence that is rampant in our nation and the world, **Open Plaza** offers AfroSpiritus, to counter the horrific rhetoric and actions that continue to diminish human relationships and communities.

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

Consider becoming a contributor and working *en conjunto* with 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 Di Trolio Coakley
Isabel González

Macarena Hernández
Jon Rodríguez

Nelly Rosario



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.

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Executive Director,
Hispanic Theological Initiative

Individuals who are interested in submitting their works are encouraged to visit 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.

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 70 works in the collection, with additions made throughout the year. Search the list of dissertations under the title "HTI dissertation collection." Interlibrary loans are possible through OCLC at local libraries, and the material is available for a four-week loan period with in-library use.

Access the online catalog by visiting catalog.ptsem.edu.

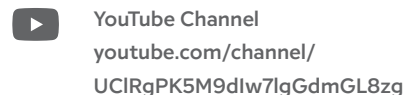
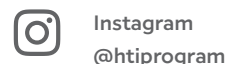
HTI Website

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

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

HTI on Social Media

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



Scan here to quickly access
HTI on Social Media



HTI LATINE DOCTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT SEMINAR

In August of 2022, the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI), the Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), and Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA) established a joint program, the Latine Doctoral Accompaniment Seminar (LDAS) for master's students. This program is designed to assist Latine senior master's students with their applications to PhD programs and fellowship applications. Students accepted into the LDAS program must identify and describe a research project and apply for PhD programs at ATS-accredited institutions. They are also encouraged to strongly consider HTI member schools due to the comprehensive support HTI offers Latine PhD students.

Master's students in their final year of coursework who are enrolled in HTI or HSP member schools and/or participants in the HYLA programming are eligible to apply for this program.

LDAS participants benefit from the following:

- A for-credit virtual course designed to strengthen applications to PhD programs and explore the landscape of theological education in the United States and its impact and engagement with Latine communities*;
- Mentoring by accomplished Latine scholars in a variety of disciplines;
- LDAS in-person meeting at the American Academy of Religion/ Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meetings (AAR/SBL);
- Editorial support for application materials;
- Networking at AAR/SBL HTI's reception.

The resources offered by the LDAS program help ensure that Latine students have access to the support they need to achieve their academic goals and make valuable contributions to theological education in the United States.

The gifts of HTI have extended for me long beyond my time as a doctoral student learning my way into the field. The networks HTI has nurtured continue to sustain my work to this day. Those relationships have made a difficult season that much more sustainable, a challenging time still filled with joy as I'm surrounded, supported, and encouraged by the colleagues who have been transformed by HTI and now transform the work of HTI for a new day.

Dr. Eric D. Barreto

Frederick and Margaret L. Weyerhaeuser Associate Professor of New Testament
Princeton Theological Seminary

**Course credits are ordinarily granted but are contingent on applicants' institutions agreeing to program's terms and conditions.*

HTI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In 2018, HTI introduced the 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 essential leadership skills and knowledge in non-profit settings while building partnerships in hopes of expanding 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 several HTI partner institutions, including the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (AHTUS), Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana (AETH), Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America-Bautistas por la Paz (BPFNA), Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas (Convención), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship—Latino Network (CBF), Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA), Museum of Mormon Mexican History (MMMh), WJK Publishers, and World Outspoken (WOS).

Through these internships, participants:

- Develop leadership skill sets while working at 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 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 Vanessa Rios Valentín, HTI Assistant Director for Programming, at vanessa.riosvalentin@ptsem.edu.



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



Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana (AETH)



Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA)



Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Latino Network (CBF)



Hispanic Summer Program (HSP)



Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA)



Museum of Mormon Mexican History (MMMh)



WJK Publishers



World Outspoken (WOS)



HTI EARLY CAREER ORIENTATION

HTI's Early Career Orientation (ECO) provides post-graduation career development through mentoring and courses, which support scholars transitioning into professional careers and help them become significant 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:

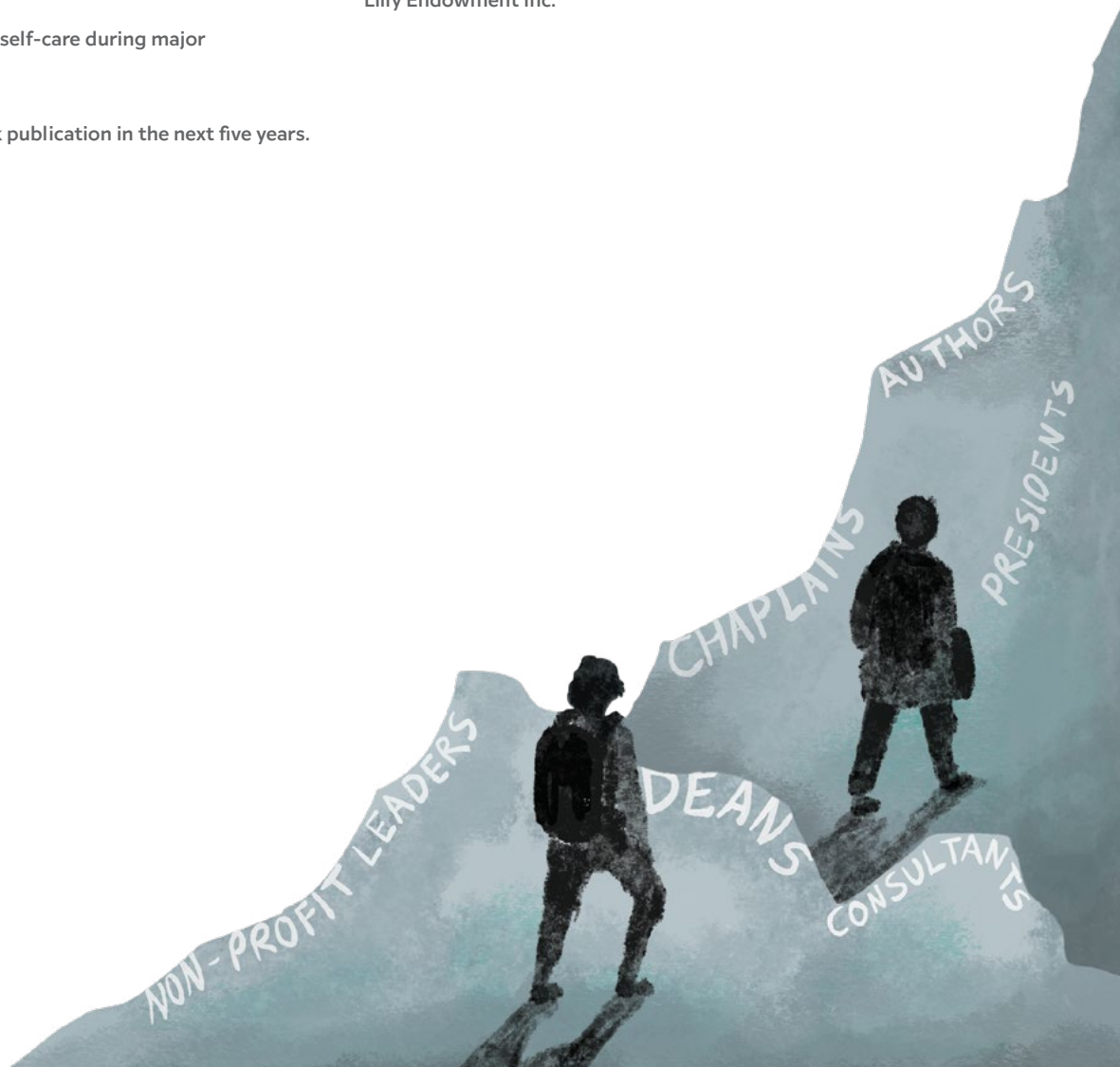
- Reading their institution well, accelerating their ability to settle into their positions;
- Building strong relationships with their presidents, deans, and faculties;
- Discovering the best way to support their institution;
- Developing their teaching and/or leadership skills in the next context;
- Learning to negotiate and execute better their involvement in committee meetings;
- Understanding the importance of self-care during major career transitions;
- Writing a plan for tenure and book publication in the next five years.

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

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

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

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





HTI LATINAS IN LEADERSHIP

Launched in September 2021, with funding from the Lilly Endowment Inc., Latinas in Leadership (LIL) offers bi-vocational, entrepreneurial, and mid-level career Latinas, within the areas of religion and theological education, opportunities to develop the skills needed to create sustainable practices that will carry and advance them through their careers. This by-invitation-only program invites Latina leaders to create a balanced and holistic plan for their professional goals and leadership by exploring the mind, body, and spirit.

This program offers the following with the HTI *en conjunto* approach:

- Creating an individualized *Proyecto Vital*, an action plan focused on helping each woman take the next steps with their leadership goals in a sustainable, holistic, and viable way.
- Participating in small groups facilitated by Sages, Latina leaders with advanced skill sets and leadership, who assist with the exploration of the various themes in an *en conjunto* manner.
- Reviewing assessments with Certified Executive Coaches to determine their strengths, stresses, and leadership approaches.
- Defining what holistic leadership means to the participants as they advance their career goals focusing on the mission of an organization.
- Participating in monthly virtual and in-person meetings where invited guest speakers will discuss topics such as Managing Effectively, Building High-Performing Teams, Conflict Resolution, and Dealing with Institutional Change, etc.

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

As a denominational leader and pastor, I was aware of the movement of the Latine community at ecumenical levels to address issues of theological education. One of the ways to address these issues was to increase the numbers of Latine scholars who could then make an impact in a variety of institutions in theological education and in their ecclesial bodies; and to take up research projects to increase the body of knowledge that was particular to who we are as Latine persons both at the levels of the academy and of the church. When the HTI came onto the scene it had the colossal task of helping to develop successful doctoral candidates passionate about advancing the cause. The HTI developed not only a program but a community of persons who have impacted the academy, the church, and the Latine community in myriad ways. The HTI continues to mentor and prepare persons for positions of leadership across these institutions. We can see HTI alums entering the ranks of presidents and deans. More women are needed in these positions and again, the HTI is working towards this end. Viva the HTI!

Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier

Director

Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana (AETH)



HTI BOOK PRIZE

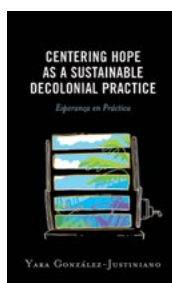
The HTI Book Prize was established in 2002 to motivate junior scholars to publish in their field. The award recognizes and rewards the best book written by a junior Latine scholar on theology and/or religion each year. The prize includes a monetary award and a guest lectureship at the annual HTI Professional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

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

2022 Book Prize Winners



Migrational Religion: Context and Creativity in the Latinx Diaspora
by Dr. João Chaves



Centering Hope as a Sustainable Decolonial Practice: Esperanza en Práctica
by Dr. Yara González Justiniano

Past Book Prize Winners

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|
| 2021 | <i>Commodified Communion: Eucharist, Consumer Culture, and the Practice of Everyday Life</i>
by Dr. Antonio E. Alonso | 2011 | <i>Divino Compañero: Toward a Hispanic Pentecostal Christology</i>
by Dr. Sammy Alfaro |
| | <i>The Saints of Santa Ana: Faith and Ethnicity in a Mexican Majority City</i>
by Dr. Jonathan E. Calvillo | 2010 | <i>Bearing the Weight of Salvation: The Soteriology of Ignacio Ellacuría</i>
by Dr. Michael E. Lee |
| | <i>Predicadores Hispanic Preaching and Immigrant Identity</i>
by Dr. Tito Madrazo | 2009 | <i>From Patmos to the Barrio: Subverting Imperial Myths</i>
by Dr. David Sánchez |
| 2020 | <i>In Place and Identity in the Lives of Antony, Paul, and Mary of Egypt: Desert as Borderland</i>
by Dr. Peter Anthony Mena | 2008 | <i>Mozarabs, Hispanics & The Cross</i>
by Dr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz |
| 2019 | <i>Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood</i>
by Dr. Patrick Reyes | 2005 | <i>Latino Pentecostal Identity: Evangelical Faith, Self, and Society</i>
by Dr. Arlene Sánchez-Walsh |
| 2018 | <i>Cain, Abel, and the Politics of God: An Agambenian reading of Genesis 4:1-16</i>
by Dr. Julian Andrés González Holguín | 2004 | <i>Sor Juana: Beauty and Justice in the Americas</i>
by Dr. Michelle González-Maldonado |
| 2012 | <i>Mestizaje: (Re) Mapping Race, Culture, and Faith in Latino/a Catholicism</i>
by Dr. Néstor Medina | 2003 | <i>Mapping Public Theology</i>
by Dr. Benjamin Valentín |
| | | 2002 | <i>On Being Human: U.S. Hispanic and Rahnerian Perspectives</i>
by Dr. Miguel Díaz |



HTI SUCCESS

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.

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Harvard Divinity School

Judy A. Armas López

Franciscan School of Theology

Diana Ávila (deceased)

Jesuit School of Theology

Maricarmen C. Castro

San Francisco Theological Seminary

César Chaves

Pacific School of Religion

Martín Concepción

McCormick Theological Seminary

Claudio Díaz

University of St. Mary of the Lake

María Díaz

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Carlo J. Ellard

Yale Divinity School

Víctor Feliberty-Ruberté, PhD

Columbia Theological Seminary

Verónica García

Harvard Divinity School

Adelita Garza

Fuller Theological Seminary

Thomas Laporté, PhD

Candler School of Theology at
Emory University

Juan Gabriel Lara

University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Jaime López

Harvard Divinity School

Nelly Lorenzo

Loyola University (Chicago)

Maricarmen Laureano-Ortega

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Ewin Martínez

Union Theological Seminary
in the City of New York

Hjamil Martínez-Vázquez, PhD

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

José del Carmen Méndez Izquierdo

University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Marco Mercado López

University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Pedro E. Miranda-Torres

Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Carmen Moreno (Albarrán)

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Felix Muñiz

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

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Lutheran School of Theology
at Chicago

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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 2023

For 27 years, HTI has supported 165 doctoral students. These HTI doctoral graduates, 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

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

Salvador Leavitt-Alcántara

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

Mariana Alessandri

Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley

Sammy G. Alfaro

Professor of Theology
Grand Canyon University

Antonio (Tony) E. Alonso

Aquinas Assistant Professor of Theology and Culture and Director of Catholic Studies
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
Santa Ana Broadway Bilingual Seventh-day Adventist Church
Santa Ana, California

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

Arelis Benítez

Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor of the Practice of Religion, Psychology, and Culture
Vanderbilt University

Rebecca Berru-Davis

Assistant Professor of Theology
St. Catherine University

Melisa M. Ortiz Berry

Associate Professor of History and World Christianity
Bushnell University

Víctor Carmona

Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
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

Assistant Professor of Religion Latinx Church Historical Studies
Department of Religion, Baylor University

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; Assistant Professor for 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

Executive Director of International Marian Research Institute and 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

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

Department Chair
Assistant Professor of Biblical
and Systematic Theology
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Rubén Dupertuis

Department Chair
Associate Professor of Religion
Trinity University

Roberto Che Espinoza

Founder Activist Theology Project Visiting Professor
Duke Divinity School

Jennifer Fernández

Consultant & Independent Scholar

Marlene Ferreras

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

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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

Nathan Aaron García

Visiting Assistant Professor of Catholic Theology
St. Edwards University

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 Goitía 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

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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 Bíblicos

Julian A. González

Associate Professor of Old Testament
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Michelle González Maldonado

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
University of Scranton

Cecilia González-Andrieu

Professor of Theology and Theological Aesthetics
Loyola Marymount University

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Assistant Professor of Religion, Culture,
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Vanderbilt University

Michael Remedios Grigoni

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Wake Forest University

Leonel (Leo) Guardado

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Fordham University

Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz

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Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry

Lauren Guerra

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

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Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion
Reed College

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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

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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

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Dominican Studies Institute, City College, CUNY

Jacqueline Hidalgo

Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
University of San Diego

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

President
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Yohana A. Junker

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

Alberto A. 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

Christina Llanes

Adjunct Professor
Lewis University
Elmhurst University

Moises López

Senior Pastor
Lynwood Grace Church, Lynwood, California

Nora Lozano

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, Texas

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

Associate Professor of Religious Ethics and Culture
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 and Adjunct Professor
Park Slope Christian Tabernacle, Brooklyn, New York

José Francisco Morales Torres

Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies and Religion
Chicago Theological Seminary

Matilde K. Moros

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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

Assistant Professor of Practical Theology
Loyola Marymount University

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

Elaine Penagos

Assistant Professor of Religion
Trinity University

Adam A. Perez

Assistant Professor of Worship Leadership
Belmont University

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

Carina O. Prestes

Professor of Religion and Biblical Archaeology
The Adventist University Center of São Paulo
Engenheiro Coelho, São Paulo, Brazil

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 Community
Engagement
Katz School of Science and Health, Yeshiva University

Christopher C. 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 Rodríguez V

Associate Director for Strategic Programming,
Hispanic Summer Program and
Visiting Assistant Professor of Historical Studies
Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York

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

Clarence Louis and Helen Steber Professorship in
Theological Studies
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
Professor of Systematic Theology, Werner R. H. and
Elizabeth R. Krause Professor of Hispanic Ministries
Concordia Seminary

Angel Santiago-Vendrell

Associate Professor of World Christianity and Witness
Baylor University—George W. Truett
Theological Seminary

Carmelo Santos-Rolón

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

Eric Joseph Sias

Director of Latina/o Programs
Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies
Berkeley School of Theology

Anandi Silva Knuppel

Senior Technical Writer
Tealium, California

Pamela J. Stevens

Adjunct Faculty
San Francisco Theological Seminary at the University
of Redlands, Graduate School of Theology

Luis Tampe

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

Stephanie Mota Thurston

Assistant Professor of Religion
University of Illinois

Alma Tinoco Ruiz

Director of the Hispanic House of Studies and
Assistant Professor of the Practice of Homiletics
and Evangelism
Duke Divinity School

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 Religion
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

Seth Anthony Villegas

Independent Scholar

Jonathan Warren

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

Aizaiah G. Yong

Associate Dean of Students,
Co-director of the DMin Program for Spiritual
Renewal, Contemplative Practice, and
Strategic Leadership
Assistant Professor of Spirituality
Claremont School of Theology

Theresa A. Yugar

Lecturer
California State University, Los Angeles

Raúl E. Zegarra

Postdoctoral Fellow, The University of Chicago
Senior Lecturer, Pontificia Universidad
Católica del Perú
Freelance Editor

HTI Post-Doctoral Fellows from 1997 to 2001

Efraín Agosto

Croghan Bicentennial Professor in
Biblical and Early Christian Studies
Williams College

Paul Barton

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

Rudy V. Busto

Associate Professor of Religious Studies
University of California, Santa Barbara

Miguel A. De La Torre

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

Gastón Espinosa

Arthur V. Stoughton Professor of Religious Studies
Claremont McKenna College

Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J.

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

Luis Daniel León (deceased)

Professor of Religion in the Americas
University of Denver

Francisco Lozada Jr.

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

Lara Medina

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

Luis Pedraja

President
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HTI Enrollment by Member Schools from 2008 to 2024

Andrews University, Michigan

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2018–2019 Proposal and Research
2019–2022 Dissertation

Mabio Coelho

2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Eraldo Guedes da Costa

2018–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Proposal and Research

Jose S. Diaz

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2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral

Herber Eduardo García Zárate

2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral

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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, PhD

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
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral

Robert Vincent Martínez

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

María Monteiro, PhD

2020–2021 Dissertation

Kerwin A. Rodriguez

2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Dissertation

Christian Sánchez

2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Dissertation

Boston University, Massachusetts

Xochitl Alvizo, PhD

2014–2015 Dissertation

Luis Javier De Prada

2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second-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
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Daniel Montañez

2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Proposal and Research

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

Nataly Lucia Romero Maita

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral

KMarie Tejeda

2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Seth Anthony Villegas, PhD

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-Garst

2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Proposal and Research

Manuela Ceballos, PhD

2013–2014 Dissertation

Anandi Silva Knuppel, PhD

2018–2019 Dissertation

Sarah Kothe

2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral
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2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Proposal and Research

Laura Marcela Montoya Cifuentes

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral

Michelle Elizabeth Navarette

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral

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2010–2011 First-Year Doctoral
2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral
2012–2014 Comprehensive Exams
2014–2015 Dissertation

**Elaine Penagos, PhD**

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

Diana Rodríguez 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
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral

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

2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral
2015–2017 Dissertation

Panayotis "Otis" Coutsoumpas, Jr.

2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams
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2022–2024 Comprehensive Exams

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2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams

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2023–2024 Dissertation

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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

2020–2022 Comprehensive Exams
2022–2023 Proposal and Research
2023–2024 Dissertation

Aizaiah Yong, PhD

2019–2020 Dissertation

Dallas Theological Seminary, Texas**Nancy Piedad Reyes Frazier**

2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams
2021–2022 Proposal and Research
2022–2024 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
2023–2024 Dissertation

Damien Domenack

2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Michael J. Anderson

2023–2024 Dissertation

Fernando Linhares

2014–2015 Comprehensive Exams

Peter Anthony Mena, PhD

2010–2011 Comprehensive Exams
2012–2014 Dissertation

Erica Michelle Ramírez, PhD

2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral
2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral
2013–2016 Comprehensive Exams
2016–2019 Dissertation

Kenia Vanessa Rodriguez

2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

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
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Amanda Rachel Bolaños

2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second-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, PhD

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
2023–2024 Second-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
2023–2024 Proposal and Research

René Velarde

2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Proposal and Research

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
2022–2024 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
2022–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Jesús Márquez Gaytán

2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Paola Marquez Leones

2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral

Emanuel Padilla

2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Adriana Rivera

2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Elyssa Salinas-Lazarski

2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral
2018–2022 Comprehensive Exams
2022–2024 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

Jibreel Delgado Trabal

2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral

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
2023–2024 Dissertation

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

Alfredo García Garza

2023–2024 Dissertation

Adrián Emmanuel Hernández Acosta, PhD

2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral
2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral

Cristian Antony Piazzetta

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral

Roberto Mata, PhD

2013–2014 Dissertation

Rebecca Mendoza

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral

Luan Henrique Gomes Ribeiro

2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams
2020–2021 Proposal and Research
2021–2024 Dissertation

Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver, Colorado

Kristian Díaz, PhD

2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral
2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral

Roberto Che Espinoza, PhD

2010–2011 Second-Year Doctoral
2012–2013 Dissertation

Néstor A. Gómez-Morales, PhD

2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral
2014–2015 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

2021–2024 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
2022–2024 Dissertation

Crystal Silva-McCormick

2011–2012 First-Year Doctoral
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams
2020–2021 Proposal and Research
2021–2024 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
2022–2024 Dissertation

Nathan Aaron Garcia, PhD

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
2023–2024 Proposal and Research

Stephen Di Trolio Coakley

2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Stacy Guinto-Salinas

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

Chauncy Diego Francisco Handy, PhD

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**Fernando Berwig Silva**

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral

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
2022–2024 Dissertation

Natalie Readnour

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral

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
2022–2024 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
2023–2024 Dissertation

**The University of Chicago
Divinity School, Illinois****Luis N. Alvarado**

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral

Christina Llanes, PhD

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
2023–2024 Proposal and Research

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
2023–2024 Dissertation

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
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

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
2023–2024 Proposal and Research

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
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral

Amirah Orozco

2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second-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, PhD**

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
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral

Francisco J. Garcia, Jr.

2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral
2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams
2022–2023 Proposal and Research
2023–2024 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
2022–2024 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
2021–2024 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
2023–2024 Dissertation

Yale University, Connecticut**Hanna Baz-Garza**

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral

Katherine Guerrero

2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

Jon-Paul Lapeña

2023–2024 Proposal and Research



HTI provided catalytic mentoring for me at the beginning of my doctoral career. Through my HTI mentor, Luis Rivera Pagán, I learned that Enrique Dussel was headed to Duke University to teach with “un tal Walter Mignolo.” Since I was looking for expertise to complement my advisor’s strength in American Religion, I made a beeline for Mignolo’s office. The result, while studying with Mexico’s eminent liberation philosopher and a padrino of decolonial Latin American studies, was a celebratory March 1998 symposium around Dussel’s residency, “Re-Constructing Time and Borders: Latina/o Religious/Cultural Change and Identities.” With generous support from Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, we assembled a dream team: David Carrasco, Anthony Stevens-Arroyo, Otto Maduro, Rudy Busto, Daisy Machado, Roberto Goizueta, Alan Neely, William Peck, Charlie Thompson, and Manuel Gaxiola. That watershed event helped to charter my own intellectual project leading to the presidency of the American Society of Church History. It also seeded the ground in Durham for today’s flourishing program in Latinx studies and the Hispanic House of Studies. La cosecha sigue.

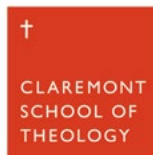
Daniel Ramírez

Associate Professor of American Religions
Claremont Graduate University



HTI MEMBER SCHOOLS

Andrews  University




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 & His Kingdom

 **VANDERBILT**
DIVINITY SCHOOL

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO**
Divinity School

Yale University



HTI CONSORTIUM

The HTI *En Conjunto* Model is a best practice, award-winning, comprehensive, and holistic approach for supporting Latine 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, 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 Latine 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 (hardcopy distributed to more than 600 individuals and institutions across the United States; and also available online on the HTI website)
- *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 ACHTUS, AETH, HSP, and HYL A

As of July 1, 2023, the commitment structure of the member institutions consists of the following three levels:

1. *Plantador*/Planter Ecology investment. Pay an annual sustaining membership contribution of \$100,000 per year, which includes enrollment of up to five students. This payment is due each year on July 1st.
2. *Cultivador*/Cultivator Ecology investment. Pay an annual sustaining membership contribution of \$30,000, which includes enrollment of up to three students at no extra cost. This level is given priority enrollment of a fourth student at the additional fee of \$8,000, if space is available.
3. *Animador*/Animator Ecology investment. Pay an annual sustaining membership contribution of \$8,000, which includes enrollment for one student. This level guarantees the enrollment of a second student for an additional fee of \$8,000. Contingent upon availability, additional students may be enrolled for a third fee of \$8,000 per student.



HTI MEMBER COUNCIL & STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HTI is grateful to the 2023–2024 members of the HTI Member Council and Steering Committee for their dedication and service to the education of Latine scholars.

Member Council & Steering Committee Chair

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

Council Members

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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

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

Bishop Grant Hagiya

President ad interim
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

David Emmanuel Goatley

President
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

Roy L. Heller

Director of the Graduate Program in Religious Studies; Professor of Old Testament
Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University

Jonathan Lee Walton

President
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

Timothy Matovina

Professor and Chair
Department of Theology
University of Notre Dame

Yolanda Pierce

Dean
Vanderbilt Divinity School

Marc Cortez

PhD Program Director and Knoedler Professor of Theology
Wheaton College

Kathryn Lofton

Dean of Humanities, and Lex Hixon Professor of Religious Studies and American Studies, Professor of History and Divinity
Yale University

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 Rodríguez

Associate Professor of Theology, Retired
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 Latine PhD students, and the number of Latine faculty and leaders for the church and the world.

To become an HTI Scholar, a student must be:

- 1) a US-born Latine/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 Latine 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 Endowment Inc. 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.

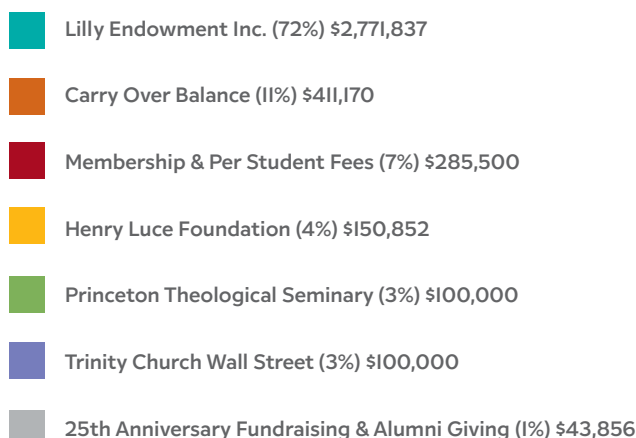
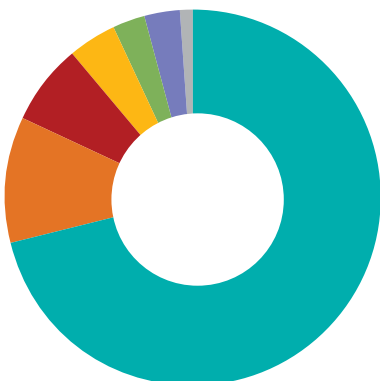
The HTI *En Conjunto* Model provides each Latine PhD student a comprehensive and holistic approach at navigating their studies, while also preparing them to launch into successful and edifying leadership roles in the academy, the church, and society in general.



HTI BUDGET 2021–2022

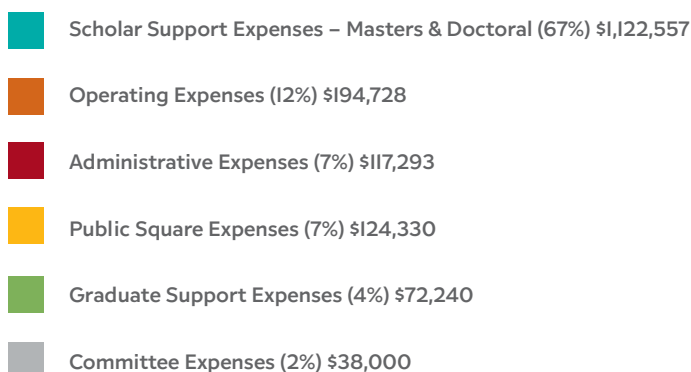
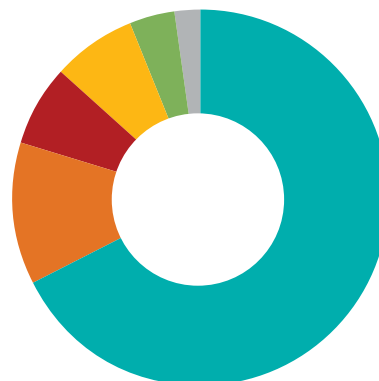
INCOME

Total: \$3,863,215



EXPENSES

Total: \$1,669,148



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 structure was increased, and HTI commenced a programmed fundraising campaign to mitigate future financial uncertainties. Additionally, incomes related to the Lilly Endowment Inc. grants 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, HTI operates out of Princeton Theological Seminary 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 Princeton Theological Seminary.



HTI DONORS WITH GRATITUDE

The generosity of these donors for the past six years has contributed to the development and growth of Latine 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

Eric D. Barreto
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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:

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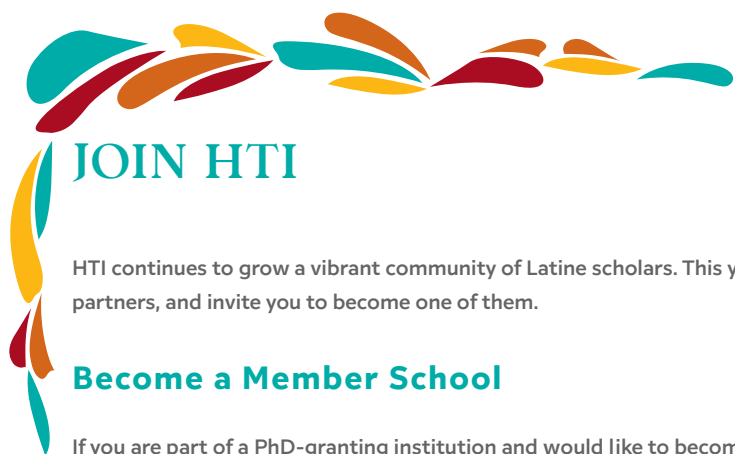
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HTI continues to grow a vibrant community of Latine scholars. This year we have **70** students from **22** member schools. We are grateful for all of our partners, and invite you to become one of them.

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

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The admission process is determined by each member institution of HTI. Latine 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.

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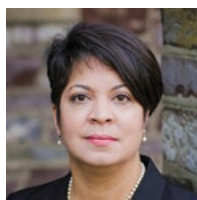
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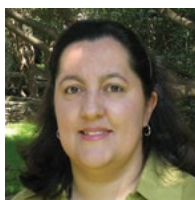


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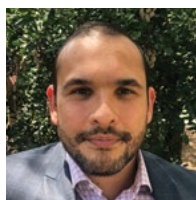
The Rev. Joanne Rodríguez, MDiv, ThM

Executive Director
joanne.rodriguez@ptsem.edu



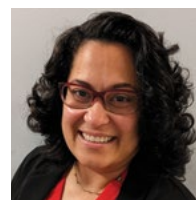
Ángela M. Schoepf

Associate Director for Operations
angela.schoepf@ptsem.edu



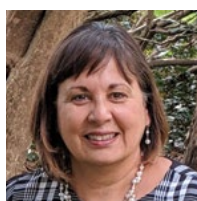
João Chaves, PhD

Associate Director
for Programming
joao.chaves@ptsem.edu



Vanessa Rios Valentín, MDiv

Assistant Director
for Programming
vanessa.riosvalentin@ptsem.edu



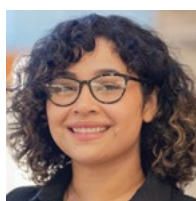
Suzette Aloyo

Office Coordinator
suzette.aloyo@ptsem.edu



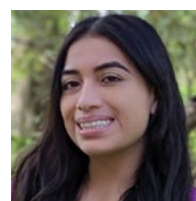
The Rev. Noreen Santos, MDiv

Database Research Assistant
noreen.santos@ptsem.edu



Isabel González

Communications Coordinator
isabel.gonzalez@ptsem.edu



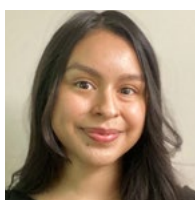
Yoselin Hernández

Office Assistant
yoselin.hernandez@ptsem.edu

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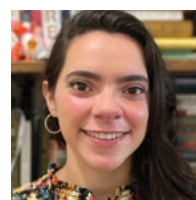
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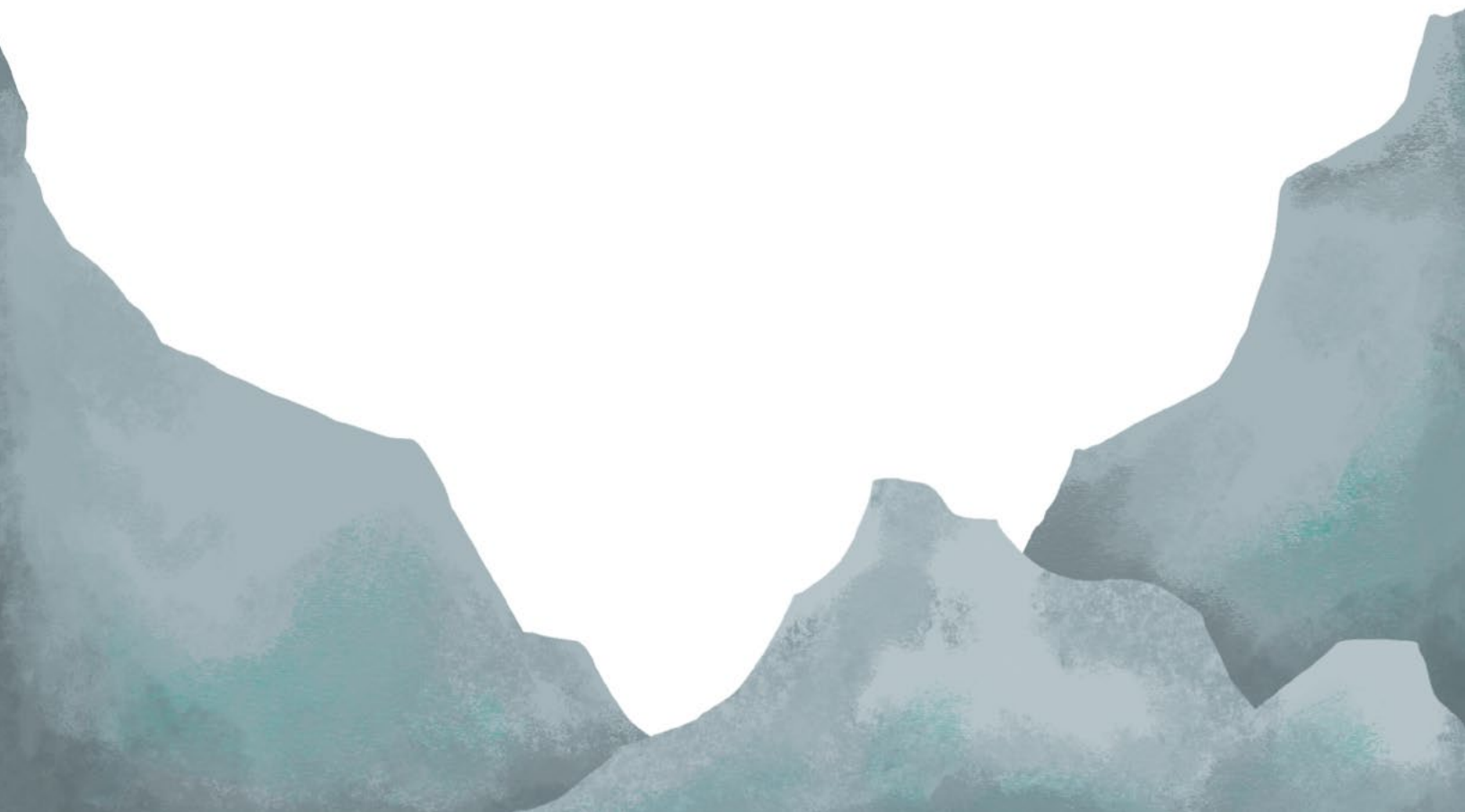
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12 Library Place
Princeton, NJ 08540
tel: 609.252.1721
toll-free: 800.622.6767
fax: 609.252.1738

email: hti@ptsem.edu
www.htiprogram.org

