



ENTRE-LAÇAR

**HISPANIC
THEOLOGICAL
INITIATIVE**

2024-2025

Quando se puseram a caminhar mata adentro,
Uma rede subterrânea de
suporte, afetos e acolhimento
se revelou.

Histórias, memórias e saberes
se encontraram
Por caminhos de alumbramento
e resistência ao adestramento—

colonial.

Corpos se embaralharam, dançaram.
E assim se lançaram ao mundo: encharcados de vida, heranças, sonhos e raízes.
—Entre-laçar

**ofertado por ocasião dos 28 anos de existência do HTI, Jan 2024, São Paulo, Brasil. Obrigada por tudo e tanto, Yohana A. Junker*

When they started walking into the forest,
An underground network of
support, affection, and acceptance
revealed itself.

Stories, memories, and knowledge
met
Along paths of illumination
and resistance to domestication—

colonial.

Bodies shuffled, danced.
And so they launched themselves into the world: drenched in life, legacies, dreams, and roots.
—Interlace

**offered on the occasion of HTI's 28th anniversary, Jan 2024, São Paulo, Brazil. Thank you for everything, Yohana A. Junker*

Cuando empezaron a caminar hacia el bosque,
Una red subterrânea de
apoyo, cariño y aceptación
se reveló.

Historias, recuerdos y conocimientos
Se unieron
Por caminos de iluminación
y resistencia a la domesticación—



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

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE 2024–2025



| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | Our Mission | 41 | HTI Latinas in Leadership |
| 3 | From the Director | 42 | HTI Book Prize |
| 4 | HTI Story | 44 | HTI Success |
| 6 | HTI at a Glance | 44 | HTI Master's Graduates from 1997 to 2002 |
| 8 | HTI Scholars 2024–2025 | 45 | HTI PhD Graduates from 1997 to 2024 |
| 8 | First-Year Doctoral Scholars | 49 | HTI Postdoctoral Fellows from 1997 to 2001 |
| 10 | Second-Year Doctoral Scholars | 50 | HTI Enrollment by Member Schools from 2008 to 2025 |
| 15 | Comprehensive Exam-Year Scholars | 57 | HTI Member Schools |
| 22 | Proposal and Research Scholars | 58 | HTI Consortium |
| 26 | Dissertation Scholars | 60 | HTI Member Council and Steering Committee |
| 34 | HTI <i>Open Plaza</i> | 61 | HTI Scholars' Support |
| 36 | HTI Publications | 63 | HTI Budget 2022–2023 |
| 37 | HTI Online | 64 | HTI Donors |
| 38 | HTI Latinx Doctoral Accompaniment Seminar | 65 | HTI <i>En Conjunto</i> Association |
| 39 | HTI Professional Development Conference | 66 | Join HTI |
| 40 | HTI Internship Program | 67 | HTI Staff |
| 41 | HTI Early Career Orientation | | |

Cover illustration by Dr. Yohana Junker (2018–2019 HTI Dissertation Scholar)
Associate Professor of Art, Religion, and Culture
Associate Dean for Spiritual Life and Social Transformation
Claremont School of Theology

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



This year, I am pleased to announce that the cover of HTI's annual brochure is illustrated by artist and HTI graduate, **Dr. Yohana A. Junker**, Associate Professor of Art, Religion, and Culture at **Claremont School of Theology**. A native of Brazil, Dr. Junker named her artwork "*Entre-laçar*," which symbolizes the intricate interconnection of the diverse aspects of relationships, networks, and partnerships within the HTI culture. The lines and colors in the artwork run parallel, simultaneously showcasing their respective individuality and their harmony with one another as a whole. Indeed, "*Entre-laçar*," mirrors my experience at HTI, where a community of exceptional individuals united to cultivate the unique talents each person brings to their field, denomination, and academic pursuits to enhance the academy, the Church, and the world.

After 25 years at the helm of HTI, I am witness to how our collective achievements have resulted in the establishment of a community that generates research and scholarship, integrating the insights of Latine scholars in academia to amplify the voices and contributions across the globe. Despite the ongoing challenges we encounter, the Latine community brings *fiesta* as a form of resistance. By embracing a festive outlook, we affirm that we do not need to sacrifice joy and celebration in the pursuit of excellence. Instead, *fiesta* animates us to remain steadfast in our vocations, resilient in our scholarly endeavors, and committed to the pursuit of a more just world. In essence, we refuse to succumb to despair; together, we continue *en conjunto* to dream, envision, and create opportunities for growth and flourishing within the HTI community.

It is in this spirit, that HTI is thrilled to announce two new grants with our partners at the **Lilly Endowment Inc.:** **HTI's Latinx Voices of Leadership in Theological and Religious Education initiative was awarded \$499,835**, towards supporting the development of HTI's three main communication organs (*Journeys* newsletter, *Perspectivas* trilingual peer-reviewed journal, and the Open Plaza blog and podcast public square platform), and HTI's Dissertation Fellowship received \$2.5 million, designed towards assisting ABD HTI Scholars working on their dissertations.

We are pleased to welcome **68 HTI Scholars from 22 member institutions** for the academic year 2024–2025 (these scholars' biographies start on page 8). Additionally, we **celebrate 13 newly awarded PhDs** (adding to the list of graduates on page 45). Furthermore, HTI is conducting a strategic study, and we eagerly anticipate the new opportunities its findings will unveil.

We kindly request your continued support in prayers, time, resources, and expertise. Additionally, you can support by sharing this brochure to advance Latine scholarship and leadership in the broader landscape of theological and religious education. As exemplified by Dr. Junker's exquisite "*Entre-laçar*," HTI remains dedicated to its mission, and we encourage you to contribute for the betterment of individuals and communities worldwide.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Joanne Rodríguez
HTI 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. Dr. Joanne Rodríguez, executive director, has worked collaboratively with a variety of advisors, mentors, and editors to develop and maintain the unprecedented completion rate of 92% 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 *iExcelencia* in Education!, catapulting the HTI vision and model into the larger landscape of education in the United States. Since then, HTI is known as the "411 Hub" for 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 Leadership Program to create opportunities for Latina scholars to apply for leadership positions in theological and religious education institutions; and to strengthen HTI’s evaluation capacity allowing it to measure its more than 25 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.

In 2023, two funding organizations recognized HTI’s efforts in advancing its mission by approving three new grants totaling \$3,000,000! Trinity Church Wall Street granted HTI \$100,000 for a pilot project to provide resources for training faith leaders to minister effectively to the growing Latinx population. Additionally, the Lilly Endowment Inc., approved a \$500,000 communications grant to continue building HTI communication platforms (*Open Plaza*, *Journeys*, and *Perspectivas*); and a second grant in the amount of \$2.4 million for the renewal of Dissertation Fellowships.

HTI holds Affiliate Member Status with the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, and In Trust Center for Theological Schools.



HTI AT A GLANCE

WHO ARE HTI SCHOLARS?



63%

Male

37%

Female



11 deans & associate deans
6 presidents

In higher education



4 World Religions,

15 Denominations

27% Ordained



110

Full-time educators

65

Leaders in administration, research, and ministry

WHAT HAS HTI ACHIEVED?



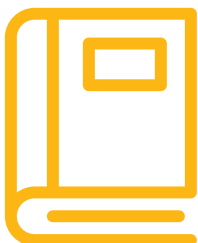
48 master's & 175 doctoral students supported

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

40% are tenured

23% are on tenured track



287 Published books by 88 HTI scholars

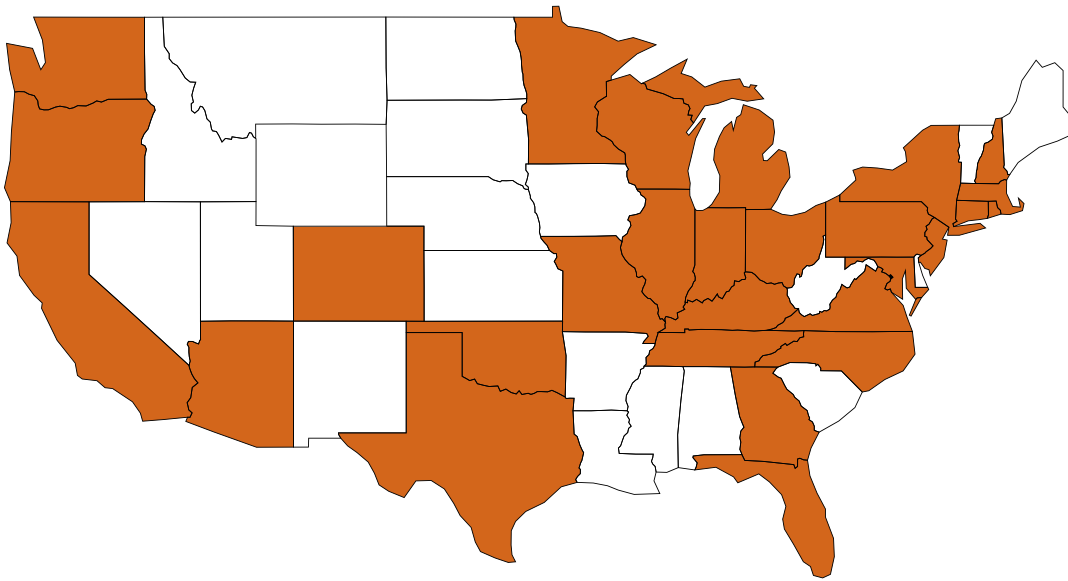
Assisted 10 post-doctoral scholars in the writing of their books (1997 to 2001)

Honored 18 Book Prize winners



WHERE ARE HTI GRADUATES SERVING?

3 continents & 8 countries



28 States and Puerto Rico



Brazil
 Canada
 Costa Rica
 Mexico
 Pakistan
 Peru
 Taiwan

Academic institutions

Media/publishing organizations

Denominations

Government agencies

Congregations

Health organizations

Nonprofit organizations

Professional/educational organizations

HTI SCHOLARS 2024–2025

First-Year Doctoral Scholars

These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2024–2025 academic year.



Claudia Marcela Alvarez Hurtado

BA, Universidad Nacional de Colombia / MDiv, Boston University / PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary (present)

Claudia Marcela Alvarez Hurtado is originally from Colombia. Before moving to the United States, she pursued degrees in Sociology, Feminist and Gender Studies, and Cultural Studies. Her involvement in LGBTQ+ and reproductive justice activism made her passionate about faith-based communities that speak prophetically against heterosexist church practices and doctrines. As an MDiv student at Boston University School of Theology, Alvarez Hurtado organized the First Latin American Meeting of Inclusive Churches, in Bogotá, Colombia. The event brought together 14 LGBTIQ+ churches and ministries from ten countries, including several Pentecostal-charismatic congregations. Based on this experience, her PhD project will ask how these churches are “queering” the Latin American Pentecostal religious movement while they search for their own ecclesial identity. Alvarez Hurtado wants to become a scholar and professor capable of bringing the richness of social science methods to the task of theologizing. She also looks forward to devoting her intellectual project to researching the concrete and innovative ways in which queer people in the Global South experience the Gospel.



Fellipe dos Anjos

BA, Methodist University of São Paulo, Brazil / MA, Methodist University of São Paulo, Brazil / DRS, Methodist University of São Paulo, Brazil / PhD, Drew University (present)

Fellipe dos Anjos was born and raised in an impoverished community in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—a territory marked by the ancestral catastrophe of colonization, enslavement, and racial violence. He is a Baptist pastor, ordained in 2012. The first person in his family to graduate, dos Anjos holds a bachelor’s degree in theology, a master’s degree, and a doctorate in Religious Sciences from the Methodist University of São Paulo (BR). In his master’s research, he investigated how the sacrificial discourses of Christianity were operated by the state government’s public security forces to legitimize the violence and death of black youth in Rio’s favelas. He worked with the relationships between religion, race, militarization, neoliberalism, and theories of sacrifice to try to explain the sacrificial work of race as the nexus of contemporary bio-necropolitics in Brazil. Currently, intending to expand his investigations on sacrifice towards ecological and environmental issues, he is interested in themes such as cosmopolitics, coloniality, raciality, spatiality, ecology, cosmotechnics, decolonial-deconstructive cosmologies, theory of ritual, African and Amerindian perspectivism, ontological turn, political theology, and eschatology.



Juan Martínez

BArch, Universidad Albert Einstein, El Salvador / MDiv, Fuller Theological Seminary / Diploma, Carey Theological College / MA, Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas, El Salvador / PhD, Drew University (present)

Juan Martínez was born and raised in El Salvador, land of the Nahua people. His research focuses on the intersections of cultural trauma, political discourses, critical theory, and liberation theology, particularly within post-war Salvadoran communities. Exploring how religious narratives and public discourses can catalyze communal healing and resilience in post-conflict settings, Martínez aims to bridge theoretical insights with practical applications for community recovery and academic discussions on trauma and transformation.



Milca Rivera

BA, University of Central Florida / MDiv, Asbury Theological Seminary / PhD, Truett Seminary at Baylor University (present)

Milca Rivera is originally from Puerto Rico and has lived in Florida since she was seven. At the age of 12, she taught her first Sunday School class at her local church and fell in love with teaching. Since then, she has never left Christian Education. Professionally, she has a Bachelor's degree in French and taught French and Spanish in the public school system for 13 years before going back to school to complete an MDiv.



Breno Nunes de Oliveira Seabra

BA, Seminário Martin Bucer, Brazil / MDiv, Western Theological Seminary / PhD, Emory University (present)

Breno Nunes de Oliveira Seabra was born and raised in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil. After getting an undergraduate degree in Theology in Brazil, he moved to the United States to continue his journey of academic development and vocational discovery. His academic interests include the doctrine of creation, Christology, Trinitarian theology, Early Christianity, the theology of Karl Barth, race, sociology of religion, black and liberation theology, World Christianity, and political theology. He hopes to explore how a robust doctrine of creation can inform Christian understandings of human identity and how this, in turn, can provide important insights into Brazil's social and political issues.





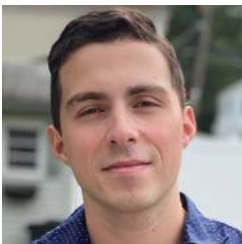
Yaheli Vargas–Ramos

BA, University of Puerto Rico / MAR, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico / ThM, Vanderbilt University / PhD, Drew University (present)

Yaheli Vargas–Ramos was born and raised in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. In his doctoral program, Vargas–Ramos is interested in studying the debt–salvation relationship that exists in both the Bible and Christian theology and how this manifests itself in the colonial context of Puerto Rico. Drawing from the rich tradition of Latin American Liberation Theology, his theological proposal draws on the concept of idolatry to identify contemporary idols that continue to demand the sacrifice of human lives. He is also interested in the concept of kenosis, as a theological movement where divinity is freely emptied in those who are suffocated by debt.

Second–Year Doctoral Scholars

These scholars have been assigned an HTI mentor for the 2024–2025 academic year.



Luis N. Alvarado

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

Luis N. Alvarado 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, Alvarado's 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 Alvarado'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, Alvarado eventually pursued 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 there, Baz–Garza 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 to 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, and a drummer since his teenage years. Berwig Silva has experience leading music in churches from diverse cultural backgrounds and has 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 focuses his studies on how instances of congregational singing outside church inform faith and ritual in Latine contexts.



Jose S. Diaz

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

Jose S. Diaz was born in Mexico and at age 15 he moved with his mother to California where he learned English as a Second Language. After finishing high school, he returned to his home country. Diaz studied at Universidad de Montemorelos, where he acquired a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry and obtained a scholarship to participate in a Transition to Teaching Program. He 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 has worked as a teacher and administrator. Diaz's research interests include rhetoric in the New Testament because he is passionate about teaching Biblical Languages. He would like to make an impact by introducing teaching methods developed by the study of Applied Linguistics. He is an Adjunct Professor at Andrews University and has tutored Greek to undergraduate and graduate students for the past three years.



Rebecca Mendoza

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

Rebecca Mendoza is a Xicana born and raised in Colorado and the daughter and granddaughter of migrant farm workers. Mendoza is a doctoral student in the Committee for the Study of Religion at Harvard University, focusing on Latin American and Caribbean traditions. She has professional experience working in community organizing, advocacy, education, and storytelling. Broadly, Mendoza's scholarship centers on 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 Chicax 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 master's thesis on the topic of copalli (copal), an aromatic tree resin and incense central to rituals and relationships across Mesoamerica.



As architects of the HTI, our vision transcended mere design; it was about weaving together the tapestries of academia and the sacred communities of our congregations, fostering a symbiotic relationship. We sought to identify and fund candidates ablaze with intellectual zeal, eager to bless and enrich the church through their passion and prowess. Embedded in the HTI's essence from inception, this noble ethos endures, guiding our journey still. As we nurture the flames of faith, forge communities of justice, and catalyze transformation, we perpetuate the beacon of excellence that is the HTI. It stands not just as a symbol, but as a testament to the divine union of intellect and spirit.

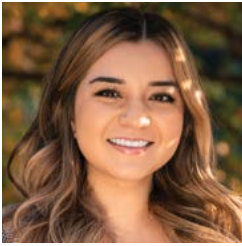
Edwín Hernández, PhD
President
Antillean Adventist University



Laura Marcela Montoya Cifuentes

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

Laura Montoya Cifuentes is a doctoral student in Person, Community, and Religious Life at Emory University. Her work analyzes gender and sexuality practices and theologies of Latin American Pentecostal women. Born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia, she worked as a community psychologist for several years, helping communities affected by the sixty years of war in her country. Her academic interests also include Liberation Theologies, Feminist Studies, Sociology of Religion, and Pentecostal Studies.



Michelle Elizabeth Navarrete

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

The daughter of Mexican immigrants, Navarrete was born in Park Ridge, IL. As a second-generation Latina, faith and culture inevitably intersect in her interests and research. 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, Navarrete is interested in lament, liturgy, theologies of exile, biblical translation/interpretation in post-conquest Mexico, and the poetic and prophetic of the Hebrew Bible that embodies all these things.



Cristian Antoni Piazzetta

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

Cristian Antoni Piazzetta 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. Piazzetta 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.





Natalie Readnour

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

Natalie Readnour was born in Richardson, Texas. She grew up with a single mother, as her father was deported when she was a child. Growing up in Texas, issues of migration and identity were always central to Readnour's life. Academically, she combines these concerns with an interest in complexifying ideas of motherhood, especially among Latina women. Readnour hopes to focus on what factors impact the epistemological legitimacy of Mexican mothers in Texas as they attempt to pass on their religious and cultural knowledge to their children. She is also interested in adjacent issues of identity, borders, and migration. Readnour hopes her research can contribute to a fuller discussion of Mexican identity and motherhood in the study of religion and theology.



Paniel Reyes Cárdenas

BA, Universidad Panamericana, Mexico / MPhil University of Sheffield, United Kingdom / PhD, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom / Oblate School of Theology (present)

At Oblate School of Theology (OST), Paniel Reyes Cárdenas specializes in Eastern Byzantine Hesychast spirituality. With a background in philosophy, he has a broad range of interests, from Scholastic Realism in Peirce's Pragmatist Philosophy to spirituality, philosophy of mathematics, metaphysics, medieval philosophy, philosophy of religion, and German Idealism. He has published monographs in philosophy, edited collections, papers presented at conferences worldwide in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, and founded the Peirce Latin-American Society. Reyes Cárdenas is committed to exploring the intersection of philosophy and spirituality, aiming to bridge the gap between disciplines. His collaboration with Fr. John Markey OP at OST has deepened his understanding of the semiotic paradigm in the study of spirituality. Reyes Cárdenas is dedicated to fostering dialogue between diverse traditions and hopes to contribute significantly to the field of Christian Spirituality through teaching, research, and community engagement.



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 Lucia Romero Maita is originally from Peru. Her research focuses 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, Romero Maita'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.





Ricardo E. Uriegas

BA, Instituto Mexicano Autónomo de México / MA, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain / ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary / PhD, Dallas Theological Seminary (present)

Ricardo E. Uriegas is a Mexico City native. Growing up under the influence of his missionary grandparents on both sides, he appropriated his faith at a young age and now ambitions to follow in their footsteps as a scholar-missionary in Theological Education. He served in Mexican government agencies for half a decade, while engaging in non-vocational research and ministry before committing full-time to the latter two. Uriegas is passionate about the historicity and language of the New Testament attesting to the Lord Jesus Christ, and he seeks to explore venues to improve the exegetical method in service of the church and her servant-leaders in Latin America.



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 2024–2025 academic year.



Matthew Arakaky

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

Matthew Arakaky 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.

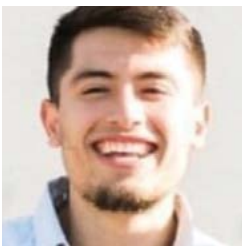




Amanda Rachel Bolaños

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

Amanda Rachel Bolaños 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. Bolaños 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. Bolaños 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 Borbon was born in California to Mexican–American parents, both of whose influence inspired him to 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 Borbon'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, he 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.



Mabio Coelho

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

Mabio Coelho 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. Coelho is currently pastoring 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. Coelho also worked as an urban ministries coordinator, pastor, and clinic/lifestyle center director at the Central Amazon Conference (Brazil).



Luis Javier De Prada

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

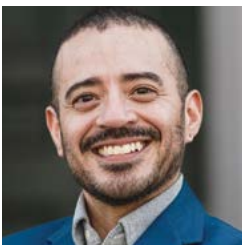
Luis Javier De Prada was born and raised in Cuba until his family decided to migrate to Miami, Florida, in 2008. After graduating from high school, he decided to pursue a BA in theology and philosophy and soon thereafter discerned to continue graduate studies in practical theology. For four years, De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



Jibreel Delgado Trabal

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

Jibreel Delgado Trabal 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.



Damien Domenack*

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

Damien Domenack 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. Domenack 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. Domenack 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.



The support of HTI for emerging scholars in the Hispanic/Latino/a/x communities is without parallel within higher education in the United States. The initiative has excellent programs, but the beauty is in the relationships that form between scholars at all stages of their development. The initiative is a community that invites more young scholars every year. HTI is an excellent investment in the renewal of the church for all communities.

David L. Odom, DMin
Executive Director
Leadership Education at Duke Divinity



Heber Eduardo García Zárate

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

Heber Eduardo García Zárate 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, 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 Garrote 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, Garrote 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. Garrote has spent many summers 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. Garrote 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)

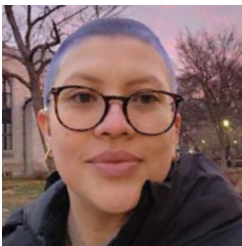
Joryán Hernández was born in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba, and immigrated to the United States when he was nine years old. As a PhD student in Peace Studies and Theology, his research interests are at the intersection of trauma, displacement, theologies of hope, and peacebuilding. He is particularly 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.*”



Jesús Márquez Gaytán *

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

A son of Mexican immigrants in Chicago, Jesús Márquez Gaytán 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 over ten years. In addition to his ministerial commitments, Márquez Gaytán also works towards strengthening Hispanic scholarship as adjunct faculty of McCormick Theological Seminary. Márquez Gaytán 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 interests include an exploration of Latin American revival movements and their role in shaping pneumatology in Hispanic Pentecostal and Charismatic imagination.



Paola Marquez Leones

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

Originally from Colombia, Paola Marquez Leones’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.



Kenia Vanessa Mendoza *

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

Kenia Vanessa Mendoza 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, Mendoza 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.



Amirah A. 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 A. Orozco 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)

Jacob Palma was born and raised in Merced, California, he is the grandchild of Mexican and Guatemalan immigrants. During his undergraduate studies, he traveled to Mexico regularly and became interested in how Pentecostalism contextualizes in Latin America. He continued his travels throughout Central America before settling in Uruguay in 2011. As a researcher, Palma aims to hear how Pentecostalism has grown in Latin America from the perspectives of local agents who have been overlooked in the written histories of Western missionaries. To achieve this, he is developing a decentering and reframing methodology for the study of Classical Pentecostal mission history in South America's Southern Cone.



Adriana Rivera

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

Adriana (Dri) Rivera, a lifelong learner of Puerto Rican descent, is a former 7th grade English teacher from Northwest Indiana. Rivera is currently pursuing a PhD in Christian Education and Congregational Studies with concentrations in critical digital pedagogies and digital theo–ethics. They believe that the shift to online learning initiated by the pandemic offers opportunities for theological education to participate in social change and empowerment for marginalized groups. Rivera demonstrates these commitments in their preaching, teaching, community engagement, research, and writing.



Karla Stevenson*

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

Raised in Los Angeles, Karla Stevenson 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. Stevenson seeks to reimagine how the church develops its hermeneutical practice through Latine theology, particularly *mujerista*, liberation, Latine, and decolonization studies.





KMarie Tejada

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

KMarie Tejada was born and raised in the Dominican Republic. Her research explores the intersectionality between indigenous, African, and Spanish religious influences in the Dominican Republic and its diaspora, particularly in the United States. She focuses on the roles of gender and race in shaping Dominican spirituality and identity. Her research considers the different ways that practitioners of Dominican spiritualities employ in emerging digital technologies their diverse ritual practices. Specifically, she examines how technology has shaped Dominican identity, religion, and sense of belonging across the Diaspora.



René Velarde

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

René Velarde 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 Velarde to know a loving God who calls his people into love. Before entering the world of academia, Velarde spent 15 years in local evangelical churches as a worship pastor. This formation gave him 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. Velarde's research interests focus on paths towards cultivating an intersectional *mestizaje* within local church communities.

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 2024–2025 academic year.



Austin Mathew Cruz

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

Austin Mathew Cruz 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. Cruz'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 Cruz's is the hagiography and the development of the cult of Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin and other saints of Colonial Spain. Cruz 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. Cruz hopes to serve both the Church and academia by expanding access to theological education in underserved communities, especially Latine communities.





Stephen R. Di Trolio

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

Stephen R. Di Trolio is a PhD Candidate specializing in "Religion in the Americas." He was born in Costa Rica and grew up in Argentina, where he returned after graduating from university in the United States. Di Trolio is researching Latin American political history, religious–social movements, and Pentecostalism in Argentina. He is the recipient of the Doctoral Louisville Fellowship and BSIR Jackson Scholar for Latin American Studies (Baylor University). Di Trolio is an active translator, having translated various books, essays, and chapters in edited volumes. Most recently he translated Pope Francis' book, *I Am Asking in the Name of God* (Penguin Random House, 2023). Additionally, Di Trolio has completed coursework in the Sociology of Culture program at the Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales at the Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina.



Stephanie Valeska López Griswold

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

Stephanie Valeska López Griswold is a historian of religion, pursuing an interfield PhD degree. 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, Griswold plans to move her work on new religious movements in the United States to Latin America, specifically Mexico, and focus on Latin American relationships with new or marginalized 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, Griswold 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 Guerrero 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. Guerrero 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).



HTI is a model for institutions of higher education that seek to engage, support, and propel Latino graduates into our society and community. I discovered this years ago, as an administrator in graduate education. Working with the HTI leadership team over the years, each interaction exemplified insight and replicable skills and practices HTI uses to welcome scholars into the academy and the pursuit of a doctoral degree in theology and/or religion linked to their faith and community. HTI's success impact is long lasting. Their support has led to significant increased doctoral recipients whose talents serve higher education, their communities, and our society.

Sarita E. Brown, MA
Co-founder & President
Excelencia in Education



Jacob Leal

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

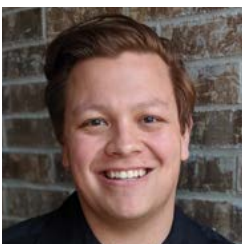
Jacob Leal is a Mexican–American born and raised in Texas whose research is influenced by his *abuela*'s stories of visitations from deceased loved ones—ancestral veneration is an important aspect of Mexican culture that informs everyday life. Leal will use decolonial theory and trauma studies to explore 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, Leal 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. Leal 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.



Emanuel Padilla

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

Emanuel (Ricky) Padilla, shaped by the diaspora of Puerto Ricans in Central Florida, felt called to theological education amid a dearth of equipped leaders in his community. Discovering accredited undergraduate programs, he pursued Biblical studies before advancing to a master's in systematic theology. His doctoral research explores Puerto Rico–US dynamics through the lens of Orlando E. Costas's “cycles of conversion” and Black Caribbean theories of identity and “disalienation.” Committed to non–traditional education, Padilla serves migrant church leaders, addressing intergenerational, racial, linguistic, and cultural conflicts. He aims to help congregations navigate identity struggles, embracing a diasporic identity that fosters belonging without erasure. Padilla also serves as president of World Outspoken, a non–profit organization dedicated to empowering in–between communities through education and training.



Izak Santana

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

Izak Santana, 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, Santana 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.



Eunice Villaneda-Bolaños

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

Eunice Villaneda-Bolaños 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. Villaneda-Bolaños 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, Villaneda-Bolaños has explored the role of women and gender among early Christianities as well as the role of individual and communal identity within them. Villaneda-Bolaños’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. Villaneda-Bolaños’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.

Dissertation Year Scholars

These scholars are writing their dissertations. Each will receive editorial assistance throughout the 2024–2025 academic year.



Gonzalo R. Alers *

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

Gonzalo R. Alers is a native of Puerto Rico. His primary focus is the New Testament (the Gospels, the Book of Revelation, and Non-canonical literature). His research interest lies in the intersection between decolonial theory, 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, Anderson is concerned with questions of identity and belonging.



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 Ballon-Garst was born and raised in San Diego, California, along the San Ysidro/Tijuana border, where his dad pastored an Apostolic church. As a scholar, Ballon-Garst 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, Ballon-Garst 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, Ballon-Garst 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 Brasil de Souza 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, Brasil de Souza returned to the United States to pursue undergraduate and graduate studies. Brasil de Souza 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.



Felipe A. Chamy *

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

Felipe Chamy is an ordained minister in the Anglican Church of Chile. He has served in pastoral ministry and as a professor of Biblical Theology, Greek, and other courses at the Centro de Estudios Pastorales (CEP-IACH). This combination of church and academy developed Chamy's desire to know God better and to train others in Christian formation and theological education. Chamy pursued an MA in New Testament at TEDS and published his thesis, *Royal Priesthood: The New Exodus Framework of 1 Peter 1:1-2:10* (Glossa House, 2021). Chamy's research now focuses on the New Testament use of Old Testament theology, especially in the Epistolary framework of Romans, where he hopes to highlight, among other things, the inclusion of the nations in the church as God's revealed mystery. Chamy is devoted to training more Hispanic and international scholars seeking higher academic degrees in biblical theology for the sake of the church.





Eraldo Guedes da Costa

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

Eraldo Guedes da Costa, a native of Brazil, is a Seventh-day Adventist ordained minister. His areas of interest include missiological education, theology of religions, mission theology, history of mission, training of volunteer missionaries, and discipleship. His dissertation delves into the missiological issues concerning the salvation of the unevangelized: a canonical perspective. He worked on a mission project for laypeople, developed in collaboration with esteemed professors from the World Mission Institute of the General Conference of SDAs (2015–2023)



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. Feagins'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 Piedad Reyes Frazier's research interests are found at the intersection of theology and cultural phenomenology, particularly as it relates to Christology, revelation, and communal ethics. She is Mexican-American.



Carlos A. Garcia Alayon

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

Originally from Colombia, Carlos A. Garcia Alayon studied Economics at Columbia University before discovering his passion for Scripture while serving in campus ministry through the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) in California. He decided to pursue a Masters' degree in Biblical Studies at the University of Notre Dame and loved it so much he stayed for the PhD. His current research interests include biblical cosmology, concepts of heaven and heavenly liturgy in the ancient world, and the intersection of material culture and interpretation. He is very interested in the symbiotic relationship between the Bible and Liturgy, especially in how each is formed and influenced by the other. Garcia Alayon has also published on Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Bible, showing how the Guadalupan tradition was rooted in the Bible from early on.





Alfredo García Garza

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

Grounded in the fields of Existential Anthropology and History of Religions, Alfredo García Garza uses an ethnographic methodology, driven by a phenomenological orientation, to examine transnational human existence across the Río Bravo. Through his research, he seeks to understand how migrants recover from ongoing political and spiritual violence in the Texas–México borderlands. The renowned *magico*–religious healer and miracle worker, *el Niño Fidencio*, thus appears at the center of his research. Overall, García Garza’s work demonstrates the fundamental role that Fidencio, and his ritual specialists, play in the migrants’ quest to heal from the violent yet mundane events that constitute life 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 J. Garcia, Jr. grew up in a working–class Mexican immigrant household with Catholic roots. Garcia is an Episcopal priest and a seasoned organizer, educator, and leader in community, labor, ecumenical, interfaith, and academic settings. His work centers around congregational, interfaith, and multi–sector organizing and community building that integrates racial, economic, and environmental–eco justice efforts. Garcia’s doctoral project involves the development of grassroots, liberationist, and 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.



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. Juliano’s current research interests lie in areas related to classical conceptions of God, liberation theology, and analytic theology. Within his dissertation, Juliano 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, Juliano aims to obtain a teaching position while actively researching and publishing in the areas of historical theology, liberation theology, and analytic theology.



I have experienced firsthand as an HTI Scholar, serving as a faculty mentor, and now as a partner for the Latinx Doctoral Accompaniment Seminar (LDAS), how HTI provides a unique space and builds programs and initiatives to support Latine PhD students in the completion of their doctorates. HTI nurtures, inspires, and prepares Latine faculty to accompany and mentor new scholars for the preparation of new generations through creative bridging and partnerships.

Through mentorship, networking (attendance and participation at the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meetings), and an online seminar offered for academic credit, the LDAS, a partnership with the Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), The Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA), and HTI, supports a cohort of up to 12 Latine seminarians from across the country in preparing for, and apply to doctoral studies. Collectively, Latinx voices in the academy make for more meaningful and relevant formation processes in higher education. I believe this partnership will strengthen and advance the Latine doctoral pipeline to serve in the academy, the church, and the world.

Cristian De La Rosa, PhD

Dean of Students and Community Life
Assistant Professor for Contextual Theology
National Director of HYLA
Boston University School of Theology



Sarah Kothe

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

Sarah Kothe's research is centered in the field of theological bioethics. Her interest in this area 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, Kothe entered a master's program at Candler School of Theology where her research examined how Catholic theology informs healthcare decision-making, particularly at the end of life. Currently working on her dissertation, Kothe is incorporating ethnographic methods in her project which is aimed at uncovering and then addressing the challenges senior adults face as they transition to new forms of housing. She hopes that her research will encourage further theological reflection and ethical action on this issue so that every elder can have access to equitable and compassionate care.



Jon-Paul Lapeña

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

Jon-Paul Lapeña is a first-generation college student born to farm workers. He was raised Pentecostal in the desert of the Coachella Valley, California. Lapeña 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 testing whether modern categories of addiction provide useful frameworks for critically engaging ancient medical, philosophical, and religious discourses around substance abuse. The dissertation aims to seek evidence of addiction patterns in antiquity, elucidate the rhetorics critiquing drunkenness, and challenge long-dominant historical interpretations that perpetuate stigma and discrimination against people with addictive behaviors.



Joshua Mendez

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

Joshua Mendez is the son of Puerto Rican and Chilean parents. His dissertation explores the role of providential thought in the processes of racial formation and the emergence of capitalism during the colonial encounter(s) of the long 16th Century. Mendez's research interests include the relationship between religion and political economy, Latin American cultural studies, and philosophy and radical politics.





Daniel Montañez

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

Daniel Montañez 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. Montañez'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. Montañez 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.



Geoffrey Nelson–Blake

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

Geoffrey Nelson–Blake 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 a faith–based community organizer. His interests include missiology, public theology, and decolonial theory. Drawing from research interviews, his dissertation investigates how future–oriented, eschatologically driven mission is a primary source of motivation for many participants of faith–based community organizing. Nelson–Blake aspires to teach full–time, having recently taught a course designed as a dialogue between mission studies and decolonial studies. His publishing experience includes a chapter for a book and an essay for The Washington Post.



Kerwin A. Rodriguez

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

Kerwin A. Rodriguez was born in New York City to Dominican immigrants. He is passionate about preaching and teaching others to preach. He has taught preaching in academic and non–academic settings for almost fifteen years. Rodriguez is a PhD in Preaching with a focus on the Latine homiletical tradition. His dissertation considers how the preacher as storyteller can reframe the collective identity of Dominican people after the Trujillo Dictatorship.



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 A. Rosa Fuentes 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. Rosa Fuentes's desire is to provide spaces for possibilities that invite people in our churches and community to come with their whole stories and embodiments.



Matthew Vega

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

Matthew Vega 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. Vega 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, Fresno / MA, Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary / PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Noemi Vega Quiñones migrated to the United States from Mexico 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. Vega Quiñones'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. Her research interests include sociotheological racial formation, womanist and Latina feminist theologies, borderland epistemologies, virtue and migration Ethics, and epistemologies of *buen vivir*.



David Zamora

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

David Zamora 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). Zamora 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, Zamora's dissertation examines the rhetorical function of the future in the book of Zechariah. Through his doctoral formation, Zamora is committed to forming leaders for the Latine's church and society.

* Scholars under modified enrollment.





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.

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:

- Education
- Gender & Sexuality
- Migration
- Culture
- 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. *Open Plaza* has introduced additional series, including Theological Education between the Times (TEBT), Poetry, content in Spanish and Portuguese, as well as *Encuentro Carlos De Foucauld*, all available for exploration on the website through blogs and podcast episodes.



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. Visit the “Submit” tab at the top of HTIOpenPlaza.org to share your unique perspective.

Faculty-Led Team

Eric Barreto
Isabel Gonzalez

Jacqueline Hidalgo
Daniel Ramírez

Joanne Rodríguez
Santiago Slabodsky

Production Team

Isabel González
Macarena Hernández

David Rosario
Nelly Rosario

Martha Lucia Vargas

HTI is the premiere go-to organization for preparing and equipping the next generation of Hispanic scholars and theological executives. It has had a tremendous impact on the academy and theological education and scholarship. Many of its alumni have gone on to become important leaders and colleagues shaping the future theological education, scholarship and various institutions serving the broader church and developing the next generation of Christian leaders, pastors, and theological educators. Rev. Joanne Rodríguez and her team are to be commended for their tenacious effort and consistent leadership through the years.

Stephen Lewis, PhD

President

The Forum for Theological Exploration

PERSPECTIVAS

Perspectivas

perspectivasonline.com

Perspectivas is a peer-reviewed trilingual journal of the Hispanic Theological Initiative. It is a vehicle that reaches a broad audience, including faculty and students, as well as a growing number of churches and other community organizations across the globe. 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 100 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 23 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.

 Facebook
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 YouTube Channel
[youtube.com/channel/UCIRgPK5M9d1w7lgGdmGL8zg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIRgPK5M9d1w7lgGdmGL8zg)



Scan here to quickly access
HTI on Social Media

HTI LATINX DOCTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT SEMINAR

In August of 2022, the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI), the Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), and Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA) jointly established the Latinx Doctoral Accompaniment Seminar (LDAS). This program assists Latine senior master's students with their applications to PhD programs. Master's students in their final year of coursework enrolled in HTI or HSP member schools and/or are participants in the HYLA programming are eligible to apply.

LDAS participants benefit from the following:

- Two-credit virtual course designed to strengthen applications to PhD programs*
- Editorial support for application materials
- Mentoring by accomplished Latine scholars in a variety of disciplines
- Attendance to the LDAS gathering during the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meetings (AAR/SBL)
- Networking at HTI's reception during the AAR/SBL Annual Meetings.

The resources offered by the LDAS program help ensure that Latine students have support in achieving their academic goals of pursuing a PhD and make valuable contributions to theological education in the United States.

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

I still think of my mentor and other seasoned HTI scholars as *tías* and *tíos* whose wisdom continues to guide me. And I think of my cohort of dissertation writers as *primas* and *primos* who all went through the same stage of life together and continue to hold the joys and sorrows of that journey in our collective memory. I'm grateful for all the ways in which I was supported through my studies, my writing, and my navigation of academia, but—most of all—I'm grateful for the way in which HTI always felt and continues to feel like *familia*.

Tito Madrazo, ThD
Program Director in Religion
Lilly Endowment Inc.



HTI PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The Professional Development Conference (PDC) is an annual program held over a four-day period. During the PDC, Latine PhD students enrolled at HTI attend courses in:

- Writing
- Career
- Public Presence
- Pedagogy
- Research
- Life

Each year, the courses offered are divided into five different levels and focus on relevant material to help students navigate their current PhD level. Faculty are invited to teach the courses.

Scholars who attend the PDC benefit in many ways, including:

- Networking with faculty and colleagues from other institutions in diverse areas of theology and religion
- Meeting with their HTI mentor or editor
- Attending the Book Prize Lecture and banquet

HTI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In 2018, HTI launched the Internship Program, an initiative designed to bolster the leadership capabilities of HTI Scholars. This program offers an opportunity for scholars to acquire essential skills and knowledge in nonprofit environments while also fostering partnerships that can significantly expand their professional networks. The partnerships forged through the program, not only enrich participants' scholarship and discipline but also pave the way for future employment opportunities. Each internship provides the student with a stipend and travel funds, and a stipend for the site supervisor, all made possible by the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Through these internships, participants: The non-profit institutions benefit by:

- Develop leadership skill sets while working at Hispanic-serving nonprofits
- Strengthen the partnering institutions' ability to further their missions
- Explore leadership styles and learn problem-solving skills
- Gain hands-on knowledge that can support their doctoral work
- Develop connections with the communities they earnestly wish to support
- Experience and discover roles in the nonprofit sector that participants may not have recognized
- Lessen student debt

- Gaining additional support for projects
- Learning new ways to approach teaching, learning, and leading

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)



Association for Public Religion & Intellectual Life (APRIL)



Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA)



Christian Latina Leadership Institute (CLLI)



Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas (Convencion)



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Latino Network (CBF)



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



Hispanic Summer Program (HSP)



Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA)



Museum of Mormon Mexican History (MMMh)



New Generation 3 (NG3)



WJK Publishers (WJK)



World Outspoken (WOS)



HTI EARLY CAREER ORIENTATION

In 2018, HTI launched the Early Career Orientation (ECO). This by–invitation program aims to equip newly minted graduates with practical skills and knowledge to navigate their institution effectively and contribute meaningfully to its leadership. ECO is made possible by the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc.

The goal of the ECO is to support and nurture recent graduates so that they are able to:

- Read their institution well to accelerate the ability to settle into their positions
- Build solid relationships with the presidents, deans, and other faculty
- Discover best practices to support the institution
- Develop teaching and/or leadership skills
- Learn to negotiate and execute better involvement during meetings
- Understand the importance of self–care during major career transitions
- Write a tenure plan and book publication timeline within the next five years

In turn, institutions 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

LATINAS IN LEADERSHIP

Launched in September 2021, Latinas in Leadership (LIL) offers unique opportunities to Latinas in bi–vocational, entrepreneurial, and mid–level careers to develop skills that create sustainable practices that will carry and advance them throughout their careers. This by–invitation–only program invites Latina leaders to create a balanced and holistic plan for their professional and leaderships goals. LIL is made possible by the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc.

The goals of the program are achieved by:

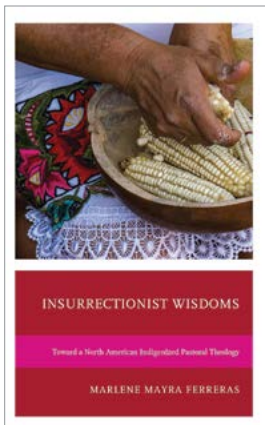
- Creating an individualized *Proyecto Vital*, an action plan focused on helping participants move towards their leadership goals in a sustainable, holistic, and viable way
- Completing assessments with Certified Executive Coaches to identify their strengths, stresses, and leadership approaches.
- Equipping participants with skills and knowledge applicable to their current profession
- Engaging in peer learning with Latina leaders with advanced skillsets and leadership experience, who assist in guiding participants in exploring the rich and diverse learning environments
- Assisting participants in defining their holistic leadership approach as they advance their career goals

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

2023 Book Prize Winner



*Insurrectionist Wisdoms,
Toward a North American Indigenized Pastoral Theology*

by Dr. Marlene Mayra Ferreras

I do not know of any organization having a greater impact for Hispanic Latiné leaders in theological education than the Hispanic Theological Initiative. Through the leadership of Joanne Rodríguez, the staff, and HTI's network, the Initiative has produced a generation of scholars who are changing the landscape of theological schools and the communities of faith that they serve. Through more recent initiatives, HTI is making a difference among emerging leaders through their programs and mentoring. This ensures that the future of theological education will be one with an increasing presence of Latinas in leadership in theological school faculties and administration.

Frank Yamada, PhD
Executive Director
The Association of Theological Schools

Past Book Prize Winners

- 2022 *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
- 2021 *Commodified Communion: Eucharist, Consumer Culture, and the Practice of Everyday Life*
by Dr. Antonio E. Alonso
- The Saints of Santa Ana: Faith and Ethnicity in a Mexican Majority City*
by Dr. Jonathan E. Calvillo
- Predicadores Hispanic Preaching and Immigrant Identity*
by Dr. Tito Madrazo
- 2020 *In Place and Identity in the Lives of Antony, Paul, and Mary of Egypt: Desert as Borderland*
by Dr. Peter Anthony Mena
- 2019 *Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood*
by Dr. Patrick Reyes
- 2018 *Cain, Abel, and the Politics of God: An Agambenian reading of Genesis 4:1–16*
by Dr. Julian Andrés González Holguín
- 2012 *Mestizaje: (Re) Mapping Race, Culture, and Faith in Latino/a Catholicism*
by Dr. Néstor Medina
- 2011 *Divino Compañero: Toward a Hispanic Pentecostal Christology*
by Dr. Sammy Alfaro
- 2010 *Bearing the Weight of Salvation: The Soteriology of Ignacio Ellacuría*
by Dr. Michael E. Lee
- 2009 *From Patmos to the Barrio: Subverting Imperial Myths*
by Dr. David Sánchez
- 2008 *Mozarabs, Hispanics & The Cross*
by Dr. Raúl Gómez–Ruiz
- 2005 *Latino Pentecostal Identity: Evangelical Faith, Self, and Society*
by Dr. Arlene Sánchez–Walsh
- 2004 *Sor Juana: Beauty and Justice in the Americas*
by Dr. Michelle González–Maldonado
- 2003 *Mapping Public Theology*
by Dr. Benjamin Valentín
- 2002 *On Being Human: U.S. Hispanic and Rahnerian Perspectives*
by Dr. Miguel Díaz



HTI Master's Graduates from 1997 to 2002

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

Rafael Acosta
Harvard Divinity School

Judy A. Armas López
Franciscan School of Theology

Diana Ávila (deceased)
Jesuit School of Theology

Maricarmen C. Castro
San Francisco Theological Seminary

César Chaves
Pacific School of Religion

Martín Concepción
McCormick Theological Seminary

Claudio Díaz
University of St. Mary of the Lake

María Díaz
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Carlo J. Ellard
Yale Divinity School

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–Figuroa, PhD
New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Ariel Rodríguez (deceased)
Drew University Theological School

Armando Rodríguez Jr., PhD
Garrett–Evangelical
Theological Seminary

América Rojas
Pacific School of Religion

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

Gabriel A. Salguero
New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Angel Santiago–Vendrell, PhD
Church of God Theological Seminary

María I. Santiviago–Espinal
New York Theological Seminary

Carmelo Santos, PhD
Lutheran School of Theology
at Chicago

David G. Soto–Valenzuela
Drew University Theological School

Hamleth Terrones
Fuller Theological Seminary

Lorena Maria Thompson Thompson
Emory University

Felipe Vaglienty
University of St. Mary of the Lake

Brendaly Vélez
Fuller Theological Seminary

Christopher Ysais
Harvard Divinity School

HTI PhD Graduates from 1997 to 2024

For 28 years, HTI has supported 175 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

Andrés Roberto Albertsen

Pastor
Iglesia Luterana Paz y Esperanza
Visitation Pastor
Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar, MN

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

Sammy G. Alfaro

Professor of Theology
Grand Canyon University

Antonio (Tony) E. Alonso

Aquinas Associate 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
Professor of Religion and Culture
Drew Theological School

Jorge A. Aquino

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

Wendy Arce

Senior Fellowship Officer at the Division of Graduate Education
University of California Los Angeles

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 Benitez

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

Adjunct Professor
Bushnell University
Executive Director
Crown of Life Ministry

Víctor Carmona

Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
University of San Diego

Tommy Casarez

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 the History of Religion in the Americas
Baylor University

Arturo Chávez

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

Elizabeth Conde-Frazier

Executive Director, **Retired**
Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana
Independent Scholar, Mentor and Practical Theologian

Gerardo A. Corpeño Nerio

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

Jeremy Cruz

Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
St. John's University

Gregory Lee Cuéllar

Full Professor of Old Testament
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Frederick John Dalton

Teacher of Religious Studies
Bellarmine College Preparatory

Maziel Barreto Dani

Senior Director of Administration and Logistics
PharmQ Global Consulting, LLC

María Teresa Dávila

Associate Professor of Practice, Religious and Theological Studies
Merrimack College

Cristian De La Rosa

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

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
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
St. John's University

Janan Delgado

Independent Scholar

Kristian Díaz

Independent Scholar

Miguel Díaz

The John Courtney Murray University Chair
in Public Service
Loyola University Chicago
US Ambassador to the Holy See (2009–2012) **Retired**

Esther Díaz–Bolet

Independent Scholar

Fellipe do Vale

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

Rubén Dupertuis

Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities
Associate Professor of Religion
Trinity University

Roberto Che Espinoza

Founder Activist Theology Project
Visiting Professor
Duke Divinity School

Matthew Esquivel

Independent Scholar

Jennifer Fernández

Consultant & Independent Scholar

Marlene Ferreras

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

Daniel F. Flores

Director of Cook Library
Sappenfield Chair of Library Science
Assistant Professor
Texas Lutheran University

Thomas Vincent Flores

Assistant Professor of Positive Human
Development and Social Change
Life University

Renata Furst–Lambert

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

Angel J. Gallardo

Assistant Professor of Church History
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Nathan Aaron García

Assistant Professor of Theology
Marian University

Yvette García

Vice President of Advancement
West Coast Bible College and Seminary

Cristina García–Alfonso

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

Francisco Javier Goitía Padilla

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

Raúl Gómez Ruiz

Vicar Provincial
US Province
Society of the Divine Savior (Salvatorians)

Néstor A. Gómez–Morales

Lead Pastor
First Congregational Church, Stamford, Connecticut

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

Independent Scholar

Michelle González Maldonado

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
University of Scranton

Cecilia González–Andrieu

Professor of Theological Studies
Loyola Marymount University

Yara González–Justiniano

Assistant Professor of Religion,
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Vanderbilt University

Michael Remedios Grigoni

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Wake Forest University

Leonel (Leo) Guardado

Assistant Professor of Theology
Fordham University

Leticia Guardiola–Sáenz

Associate Professor of Theology
and Religious Studies
Seattle University College of Arts and Sciences

Lauren Guerra

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

Chauncey Diego Francisco Handy

Assistant Professor of Religion and Humanities
Reed College

Abner F. Hernández

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Andrews University

Alberto Hernández

Associate Professor of the History of Christianity
Iliff School of Theology

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Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies
Bethel University

Adrian Emmanuel Hernandez Acosta

Assistant Professor of Religion and Literature
Yale Institute of Sacred Music and
Yale Divinity School
Yale University

Rodolfo Hernández–Díaz

Assistant Professor
Meiho University, Taiwan

Lydia Hernández Marcial

Professor Old Testament and Hebrew
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Francisco Herrera

Independent Scholar

Ann M. Hidalgo

Professor of Feminist Theology
Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana, Costa Rica

Dennis Ricardo Hidalgo

Professor of History of Religion and Ethics
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Jacqueline Hidalgo

Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
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Felipe Hinojosa

John and Nancy Jackson Endowed Chair
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Baylor University

Suzanne Hoefkamp–Segovia

Independent Scholar

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Claremont School of Theology

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and Latino/a Studies
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Director, CASA
Director, United Methodist Regional Course of Study School for Local Pastors
Associate Professor of Christianity and Cultures
Southern Methodist University

Vinicius Marinho

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Professor of Constructive Theology
Lexington Theological Seminary

Hjamil Alfonso Martínez-Vázquez

Bilingual Teacher
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Yeshiva University

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Independent Scholar

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Assistant Editor
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Rector
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Deputy Director of Illinois Works
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Assistant Professor of the Practice of
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McCormick Theological Seminary

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Raquel and Alfonso Martínez–Fonts Endowed
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Grace Vargas

Assistant Professor of Religion
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Jared Vazquez

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Horacio Vela III

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Chicago Theological Seminary

Seth Anthony Villegas

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& Data Sciences

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Church of the Ascension, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Aizaiah G. Yong

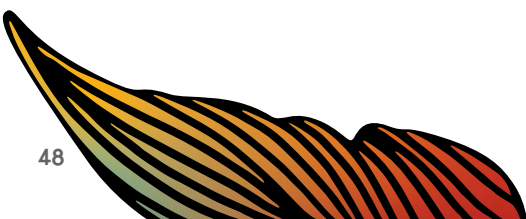
Associate Dean of Students,
Co–director of the DMin Program for Spiritual
Renewal, Contemplative Practice,
and Strategic Leadership
Assistant Professor of Spirituality
Claremont School of Theology

Theresa A. Yugar

Lecturer
California State University, Los Angeles

Raúl E. Zegarra

Assistant Professor of Roman Catholic
Theological Studies
Harvard Divinity School





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

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University of California, Santa Barbara

Miguel A. De La Torre

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Iliff School of Theology

Gastón Espinosa

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Claremont McKenna College

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Graduate Theological Union

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Francisco Lozada Jr.

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Professor of New Testament Studies
Christian Theological Seminary

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Professor
Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies
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Luis Pedraja

President
Quinsigamond Community College

Heading towards its third decade of existence, the Hispanic Theological Initiative has become a major landmark when looking at the horizon of the theological landscape of the 21st century. Its mission of cultivating Latine PhDs for leadership in the academy, the church, and society has been now witnessed by the impact of generations of HTI scholars who are serving in different capacities in all these public squares. They are contributing to extending the scope of the lenses to understand the lived experiences of many Latine communities. It has been an honor for me to serve on HTI's Steering Committee, and as a mentor of students and interns, as instructor in the Professional Development Conference, and as sage in the Latinas in Leadership program. Participating as a sage in the latter, helped me enhance my own self-confidence, especially in my leadership skills. An example of the impact of this program is that I accepted to serve as President of Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (AHTUS). I am forever grateful to be a member of the HTI *Familia*.

Ahida Calderón Pilarski, PhD

President, Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (AHTUS)
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Saint Anselm College

HTI Enrollment by Member Schools from 2008 to 2024

Andrews University, Michigan

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

Mabio Coelho
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2025 Comprehensive Exams

Eraldo Guedes da Costa
2018–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Proposal and Research
2024–2025 Dissertation

Jose S. Diaz
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2025 Second-Year Doctoral

Herber Eduardo García Zárate
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams

Elmer A. Guzman, PhD
2017–2019 Dissertation

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

Iriann Marie Irizarry, PhD
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
2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams

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

María Monteiro, PhD
2020–2021 Dissertation

Milca Rivera
2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral

Kerwin A. Rodriguez
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2025 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
2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams

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
2024–2025 Proposal and Research

Daniel Montañez
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Proposal and Research
2024–2025 Dissertation

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

Nataly Lucía Romero Maita
2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral

KMarie Tejeda
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2025 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
2024–2025 Dissertation

Manuela Ceballos, PhD
2013–2014 Dissertation

Anandi Silva Knuppel, PhD
2018–2019 Dissertation

Sarah Kothe
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral
2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Proposal and Research
2024–2025 Dissertation



Laura Marcela Montoya Cifuentes
2023–2024 First–Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second–Year Doctoral

Michelle Elizabeth Navarette
2023–2024 First–Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second–Year Doctoral

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

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

Diana Elizabeth Rodríguez Click, PhD
2015–2016 First–Year Doctoral
2016–2017 Second–Year Doctoral
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams
2018–2020 Proposal and Research
2020–2022 Dissertation

Breno Nunes de Oliveira Seabra
2024–2025 First–Year Doctoral

Eric Daniel Villalobos
2022–2023 First–Year Doctoral
2023–2025 Second–Year Doctoral

Claremont Graduate University, California

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

Panayotis “Otis” Coutsoumpos, Jr.
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams
2021–2022 Proposal and Research
2022–2024 Dissertation

Thomas Evans
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams

Stephanie Valeska Lopez Griswold
2020–2022 Second–Year Doctoral
2022–2024 Comprehensive Exams
2024–2025 Proposal and Research

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

Joshua Méndez
2021–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2025 Dissertation

Claremont School of Theology, California

Saul Barcelo, PhD
2019–2020 Dissertation

Marlene Mayra Ferreras, PhD
2017–2019 Dissertation

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

José Francisco Morales Torres, PhD
2018–2019 Dissertation

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

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

Eunice Villaneda–Bolaños
2020–2022 Comprehensive Exams
2022–2025 Proposal and Research

Aizaiah Yong, PhD
2019–2020 Dissertation

Dallas Theological Seminary, Texas

Nancy Piedad Reyes Frazier
2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams
2021–2022 Proposal and Research
2022–2025 Dissertation

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

Ricardo E. Uriegas
2024–2025 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
2023–2025 Dissertation

Damien Domenack
2021–2022 First–Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second–Year Doctoral
2023–2025 Comprehensive Exams

Fellipe dos Anjos
2024–2025 First–Year Doctoral

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2023–2025 Dissertation

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2024–2025 First–Year Doctoral

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2012–2014 Dissertation

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2021–2022 First–Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second–Year Doctoral
2023–2025 Comprehensive Exams

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2013–2016 Comprehensive Exams
2016–2019 Dissertation

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2021–2022 First–Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second–Year Doctoral
2023–2025 Comprehensive Exams

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2022–2023 First–Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second–Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams

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2020–2021 Dissertation

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2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams
2016–2018 Dissertation

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

Alma Tinoco Ruiz, PhD
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2019–2020 Proposal and Research
2020–2021 Dissertation

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2017–2018 First–Year Doctoral
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2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams

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2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams
2019–2020 Proposal and Research

Thank you for all your work in developing generations of Latine scholars. Everywhere I turn, I find the brilliant thinkers and leaders you have trained, mentored, and supported lighting the way. They are so diverse and in so many different places of leadership doing excellent work. I have known the Hispanic Theological Initiative since its inception, and it humbles me to see how it has exceeded all expectations. HTI has developed a living legacy which permeates the academy and the Church. It is truly an institution that has reshaped the landscape of theological education for the better.

Tony Tian-Ren Lin, PhD
Program Officer
Trinity Church Wall Street

Jacob Palma

2022–2023 First–Year Doctoral
 2023–2024 Second–Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams

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
 2022–2025 Comprehensive Exams

René Velarde

2020–2021 First–Year Doctoral
 2021–2022 Second–Year Doctoral
 2022–2025 Comprehensive Exams

**Garrett–Evangelical
Theological Seminary, Illinois****Patricia Bonilla**

2018–2019 First–Year Doctoral
 2019–2020 Second–Year Doctoral
 2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams
 2021–2022 Proposal and Research
 2022–2024 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
 2023–2025 Comprehensive Exams

Paola Marquez Leones

2022–2023 First–Year Doctoral
 2023–2024 Second–Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams

Emanuel Padilla

2021–2022 First–Year Doctoral
 2022–2023 Second–Year Doctoral
 2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams
 2024–2025 Proposal and Research

Adriana Rivera

2022–2023 Second–Year Doctoral
 2023–2025 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 Tralal

2023–2024 Second–Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams

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
 2023–2025 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

2023–2025 Dissertation

Adrián Emmanuel Hernández Acosta, PhD

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

Cristian Antony Piazzetta

2023–2024 First–Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Second–Year Doctoral

Roberto Mata, PhD

2013–2014 Dissertation

Rebecca Mendoza

2023–2024 First–Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Second–Year Doctoral

Luan Henrique Gomes Ribeiro, PhD

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, PhD**

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, PhD

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
 2022–2025 Dissertation

Crystal Silva–McCormick, PhD

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
2022–2025 Dissertation

Nathan Aaron Garcia, PhD

2017–2019 Second–Year Doctoral
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams
2020–2021 Proposal and Research
2021–2023 Dissertation

Paniel Reyes Cárdenas

2024–2025 Second–Year Doctoral

Julieta Sánchez

2021–2022 First–Year Doctoral

Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey

Jared Alcántara, PhD

2011–2012 Comprehensive Exams
2012–2014 Dissertation

Claudia Marcela Alvarez Hurtado

2024–2025 First–Year Doctoral

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
2024–2025 Dissertation

Stephen R. Di Trolio

2022–2023 Second–Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams
2024–2025 Proposal and Research

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
2024–2025 Second–Year Doctoral

Fellipe do Vale, PhD

2018–2019 Second–Year Doctoral
2019–2020 Comprehensive Exams
2020–2021 Dissertation

Matthew Esquivel, PhD

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
2022–2025 Dissertation

Natalie Readnour

2023–2024 First–Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second–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
2023–2025 Dissertation

The University of Chicago Divinity School, Illinois

Luis N. Alvarado

2023–2024 First–Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second–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

Víncius Marinho, PhD

2017–2018 Second–Year Doctoral
2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams
2020–2023 Dissertation

Izak Santana

2019–2020 First–Year Doctoral
2020–2021 Second–Year Doctoral
2021–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2025 Proposal and Research

Héctor M. Varela–Ríos, 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
2023–2025 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
2024–2025 Proposal and Research

Liam de los Reyes, PhD

2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams
2019–2020 Proposal and Research
2020–2021 Dissertation

Carlos A. García Alayon

2021–2022 Second–Year Doctoral
 2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
 2023–2024 Proposal and Research
 2024–2025 Dissertation

Leonel (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
 2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams

Amirah Orozco

2022–2023 First–Year Doctoral
 2023–2024 Second–Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams

Christopher Ríos–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
 2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams

Francisco J. García, Jr.

2020–2021 Second–Year Doctoral
 2021–2022 Comprehensive Exams
 2022–2023 Proposal and Research
 2023–2025 Dissertation

Luis Menéndez Antuña, PhD

2013–2014 Dissertation

Alexandra Rosado–Román, PhD

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
 2021–2025 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
 2023–2025 Dissertation

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

2023–2024 First–Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Second–Year Doctoral

Katherine Guerrero

2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams
 2024–2025 Proposal and Research

Jon–Paul Lapeña

2023–2024 Proposal and Research
 2024–2025 Dissertation



The extraordinary impact of the HTI Fellowship Award has a great deal to do with their mentoring model. The mentors of HTI Fellows give tirelessly for the healthy shaping of scholars so they do have the experience of exiting their culture or shunning their people to attain the terminal degree in religion and theology. This walk-along-side method has been lifegiving and lifechanging for scholars since 1996. The formation of good scholars depends upon an educational process that is humane, culturally relevant, and considers the student as a whole person—able to function inside cultural moorings and values. HTI's model of mentoring, now supporting generations of scholars, has made sure relationships of care and support are at the center of education.

Nancy Lynne Westfield, PhD
Director
Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion

HTI MEMBER SCHOOLS

Andrews University



Claremont
GRADUATE UNIVERSITY

Baylor University



Dallas Theological Seminary



Fuller
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Luther Seminary

Lutheran School of
Theology at Chicago



SMU PERKINS SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY



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
- Access to an *En Conjunto* Fellowship*
- Access to Capacity Building Funds*

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
- Opportunity to compete for an HTI/Lilly Dissertation Fellowship*
- Access to Capacity Building Funds*

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.

* Funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc.



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 director(s), and/or assistant director(s) 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 four 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.
2. *Sostenedor/Sustainer* Ecology investment. Pay an annual sustaining membership contribution of \$50,000, which includes enrollment of up to four students at no extra cost. This level is given priority enrollment of a fifth student at the additional fee of \$8,000, if space is available.
3. *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.
4. *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 2024–2025 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

Edwin David Aponte Dean of the Theological School Drew University

Council Members

John Reeve

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

Douglas Weaver

Barbara Jo Beard Driskell Endowed Research Chair in Historical Studies
Baylor University

G. Sujin Pak

Dean of the School of Theology
Boston University

Jan Love

Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean of Candler School of Theology
Professor of Christianity and World Politics
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

Dean
Nathan Cummings Professor of Jewish Studies
Professor of the History of Judaism, Islamic Studies, and the History of Religions in the Divinity School and the College
The University of Chicago

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

Felipe Hinojosa

John and Nancy Jackson Endowed Chair in Latin America & Professor of History
Baylor University

Adriana Pilar Nieto

Associate Professor 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

Luis Rivera Rodríguez

Associate Professor of Theology, **Retired**
Garrett–Evangelical Theological Seminary
HTI Chair (2016–2020)

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 15. 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 courses led by highly-experienced faculty focused on specific levels of study, including writing, pedagogy, and career orientation, 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. Dissertation Fellowship

HTI Scholars writing their dissertations also receive the following:

- Assignment of an editor to provide dissertation editorial assistance
- Participation in two Writer's Retreats
- Eligibility for a \$30,000 dissertation fellowship

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

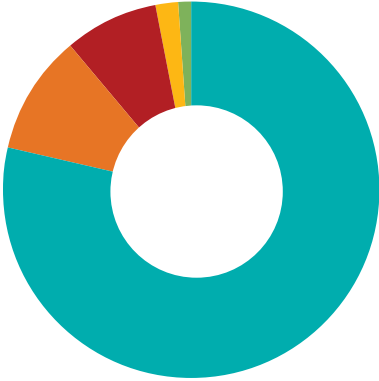
The HTI *En Conjunto* Model provides each Latine PhD student a comprehensive and holistic approach at navigating their studies, while also preparing them to launch into successful and edifying leadership roles in the academy, the church, and society in general.

The In Trust Center for Theological Schools is a proud partner and collaborator with the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI). As peers within a community of organizations that support and serve leaders in theological education, we collectively work to fulfill our organizational missions with a vision to impact the academy and the church. HTI's mission centers on cultivating Latine PhD students for leadership positions in the academy, the church, and the world. HTI has a proven multi-decade impact on graduation rates of Latine scholars (92% graduation rate) through their network of relationship building with member schools and targeted support of students. HTI has intentionally and thoughtfully increased the presence of Latine scholars in faculty and administrative positions throughout theological education and the wider higher education field. In addition to HTI's core mission, HTI has effectively positioned itself as a center for information, support, and celebration for Latine faculty and students. In the fall of 2021, HTI launched the Latinas in Leadership program to address the lack of Latina presidents and deans in theological education. I am grateful for the opportunity to share institutional wisdom and resources with Executive Director Joanne Rodríguez. She is a valued peer colleague who practices the *en conjunto* that she preaches.

HTI BUDGET 2022–2023

INCOME

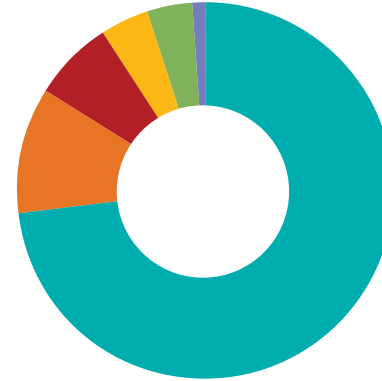
Total: \$4,219,630



- Lilly Endowment Inc. (78%) \$3,337,742
- Carry Over Balance (10%) \$425,427
- Membership & Per Student Fees (8%) \$348,500
- Princeton Theological Seminary (2%) \$100,000
- Alumni Giving (1%) \$7,961

EXPENSES

Total: \$2,267,656



- Scholar Support Expenses – Masters & Doctoral (74%) \$1,669,832
- Operating Expenses (11%) \$247,771
- Administrative Expenses (7%) \$149,030
- Public Square Expenses (4%) \$87,201
- Graduate Support Expenses (4%) \$81,458
- Committee Expenses (1%) \$32,364

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 2023, 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. and Trinity Church Wall Street 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 five 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

LEADERSHIP DONORS \$1,000 — \$4,999

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

SUPPORTERS \$500 — \$999

Lizette M. Acosta
Aixa Beauchamp
João Chaves
Elizabeth Conde-Frazier
Yara Gonzalez-Justiniano
Grace Lutheran Church of Malverne
Ann Hidalgo
José R. Irizarry
Lexington Theological Seminary
Loida I. Martell
Joanne Rodríguez
Carla E. Roland
Miguel J. Romero
Lis Eda Valle-Ruiz
Alicia Vargas
Grace Vargas
John D. Witvliet

PARTNERS \$100 — \$499

Academy of Catholic Hispanic
Theologians
Efrain Agosto
Victor Aloyo Jr.
Xochitl Alvizo
Rebecca M. Berru Davis
Karen Sue Boehk
María M. Carrión
M. Daniel Carroll
Peter J. Casarella
Tommy Ayala Casarez
Hilquias B. Cavalcanti
Jennifer Christensen
Florine Clomegah-Freitas
Edgardo Colon-Emeric
Lucila Crena
Maria Teresa Davila
Neomi D. DeAnda
Patricia Deeney
Teresa Delgado
Marlene M. Ferreras
Ángel J. Gallardo Villafan
Doris J. Garcia-Rivera
Leonel (Leo) Guardado
Karen Hernandez Granzen
Lydia Hernandez Marcial
Linda Kay Laubach
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HTI EN CONJUNTO ASSOCIATION

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

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

Your membership gives you the opportunity to help shape the next generation of leaders in theology and religion,

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

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Want to become an ECA member?

To join HTI *En Conjunto* Association visit htiprogram.org or email HTIEnConjunto.Associates@ptsem.edu.



JOIN HTI

HTI continues to grow a vibrant community of Latine scholars. This year we have **68** students from **22** member schools. We are grateful for all of our partners, and invite you to become one of them.

Become a Member School

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

Become an HTI Scholar

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.

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

HTI Scholars who are All But Dissertation (ABD) by February 2025 may compete for an HTI dissertation grant. Please contact the HTI staff for information in October.

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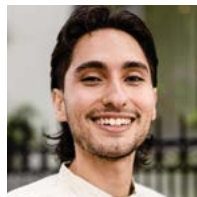


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