

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE 2025-2026

EN CONJUNTO

MEMBER
COUNCIL

LATINAS IN LEADERSHIP

EARLY CAREER
ORIENTATION

STEERING COMMITTEE

WRITING RETREATS

PERSPECTIVAS

LDAS

INTERNSHIPS

OPEN
PLAZA

MENTORSHIP

FELLOWSHIPS

COMMUNITY
JOURNEYS

EDITORS

BOOK
PRIZE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE





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

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE 2025–2026



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OUR MISSION

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

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



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The cover design of this year's brochure was inspired by a metaphor introduced by a consultant during a presentation on communication strategies for the Steering Committee. The image depicted a *greenhouse* representing a nurturing environment conducive to cultivating emerging leaders with purpose and care, thus allowing their potential to be recognized and developed. This metaphor encapsulates a fundamental aspect of HTI's identity, which transcends being merely a network or an organization—a rich and fertile ground.

This led to a visual representation of HTI as a greenhouse, a dynamic ecosystem that protects, distributes resources, and increases production. Thus, it creates experiences of healthy environments that stabilize growth. In the HTI greenhouse, scholars enter an environment where they can experience a rich and fertile foundation that provides opportunity for growth, leading to branching out into the world as educators, writers, organizers, clergy, and visionaries.

For this academic year, 2025–2026, HTI is pleased to welcome fifty-nine HTI Scholars from twenty member institutions. Furthermore, we celebrate the achievement of eight newly conferred PhDs—each a testament to resilience, intellect, and the steadfast support of the HTI *familia*.

One who has planted a seed understands that effective growth necessitates more than quality soil; it requires sunlight, water, patience, and trust in the unseen. Similarly, HTI flourishes due to a broad community of supporters who willingly dedicate their time, talents, and resources. As such, we invite you to engage in this continuous cultivation in any of the following ways:

- Share this brochure among your networks.
- Be a Mentor for emerging scholars.
- Offer your professional expertise to enhance our programs.
- Make a financial contribution; every contribution is significant.

Your engagement and support help preserve the vitality and growth of this greenhouse. Your contributions to HTI invest in a future where Latine leaders continue to shape the Church, the academy, and the world.

We at HTI express our profound gratitude for your support because in this greenhouse, nothing flourishes in isolation.

With heartfelt thanks,

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

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 *¡Excelencia in Education!*, catapulting the HTI vision and model into the larger landscape of education in the United States. Since then, HTI is known as the "411 Hub" for Latine theological and religious resources, and is relied upon by presidents, deans, faculty, and students for resources and networks. In 2011, HTI received a \$400,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to provide fellowships to post-comprehensive examination/dissertation HTI scholars.

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

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

Also in 2017, HTI received a planning grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. titled, "Synergies to Nurture, Improve, and Advance Latine Religious and Theological Leaders/Scholars." This grant supported three new initiatives: First, a gathering of Higher Education Denominational Leaders to discuss opportunities and challenges in serving Hispanic leaders' educational goals; second, a Mentoring Pilot Program for First Call to nurture and address the needs of HTI graduates who are in their first position; and third, a Mentoring Internship Program for current HTI

Scholars to explore diverse ways in which they can utilize their doctoral degrees to serve in diverse contexts. Each of the new initiatives were carried out in 2018, and their success led to HTI receiving a \$1.4 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., in March 2019. This grant allows HTI to continue the Mentoring Program for First Call and the Mentoring Internship Program.

With this grant, HTI developed a Latinas in 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.

The Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) nourished my academic soul when it was little more than a seed. The emotional, mental, and financial support of HTI helped me grow roots in the form of my identity as a Latina scholar. Their support during my Comprehensive Exams and Dissertation ensured that I would also grow a shoot visible to the academic world. Now, HTI supports me by valuing my time and work, knowledge and skills. Above all, I feel recognized in and by HTI in a way that seldom happens even by one's academic peers. Thank you, HTI!

Mariana Alessandri, PhD

Professor of Philosophy

Affiliate Faculty in Religious Studies, Gender, and Women's Studies and Mexican-American Studies

University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley

HTI AT A GLANCE

WHO ARE HTI SCHOLARS?



63%

Male

37%

Female



**10 deans &
associate deans
5 presidents**

In higher education



3 World Religions

18 Denominations

12% Ordained



113

Full-time educators

70

Leaders in administration,
research, and ministry

WHAT HAS HTI ACHIEVED?



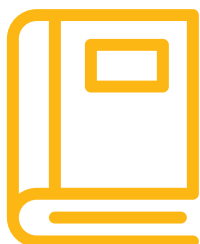
**48 master's & 183 doctoral
students supported**

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

38% are tenured

24% are on tenured track



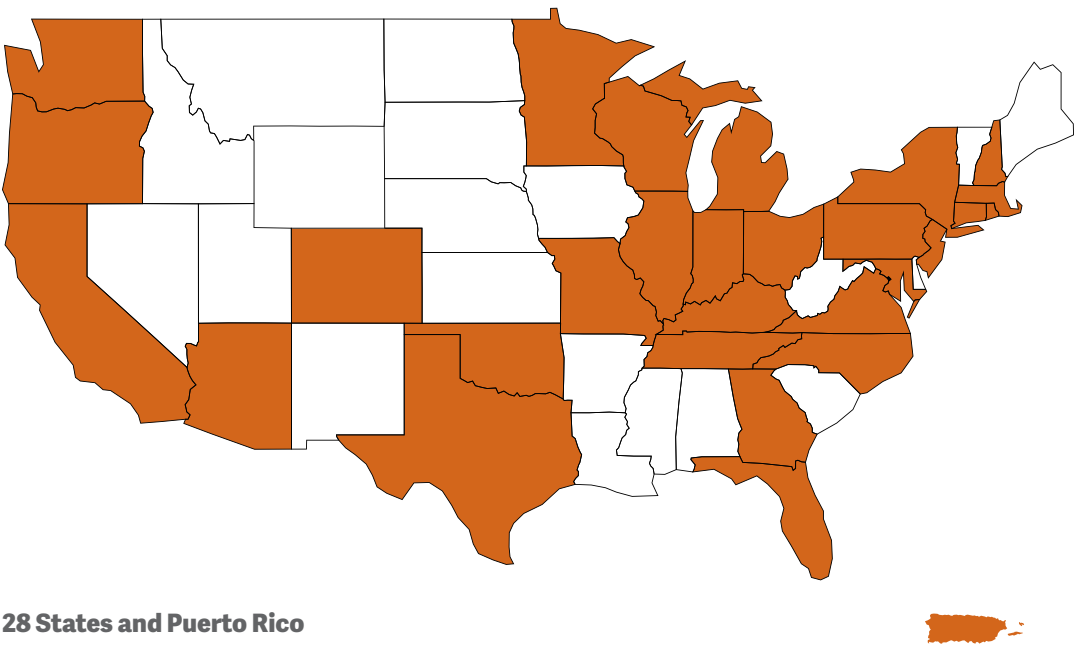
**301 Published books by
94 HTI scholars**

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

Honored 19
Book Prize winners

WHERE ARE HTI GRADUATES SERVING?

4 continents & 10 countries



Academic institutions

Denominations

Congregations

Nonprofit organizations

Media/publishing organizations

Government agencies

Health organizations

Professional/educational organizations

- Belgium
- Brazil
- Canada
- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
- Italy
- Mexico
- Pakistan
- Taiwan

HTI SCHOLARS 2025–2026

First-Year Doctoral Scholars

HTI has assigned a mentor to these scholars for the 2025–2026 academic year.



Jonathan W. Campoverde

BS, Texas A&M University / ThM, Dallas Theological Seminary / MDiv, Southern Methodist University / PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Jonathan ‘Jon’ Campoverde, the son of immigrants, was raised in the Rio Grande Valley along the Texas-Mexico border. With an Ecuadorian father and a Canadian mother, Campoverde’s cultural heritage spans the length of the American continent, which he traveled extensively as a missionary child. Drawing inspiration from his childhood glimpses of eschatological hope seen in speculative fiction, Campoverde’s project weaves together myth studies and the borderlands to better understand the syncretistic existence of the post-Christian Latine living in the United States and abroad by looking at the various fictional narratives produced by Latine culture. Campoverde is interested in the religious history of Latine communities, particularly the interactions between mainline denominations and Latine immigrants over the past five decades. He hopes to use his research and understanding to improve Hispanic ministry in his local church and to train future Hispanic church leaders.



Marcos Canales Avellaneda

BA, Point Loma Nazarene University / MDiv, Fuller Theological Seminary / PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary (present)

Marcos Canales Avellaneda, originally from Costa Rica and the son of Peruvian parents, has been pastoring amongst the Latine community of Los Angeles for two decades. He has also worked in the areas of community-based youth development, immigration advocacy, leadership coaching and theological education. Canales is pastor of La Fuente Ministries: a bilingual, intercultural, and intergenerational congregation in the city of Pasadena, CA. Canales is passionate about integrating Christian discipleship, social justice, and Latine theology.



Armindo Ferreira

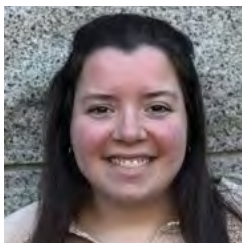
BA, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil / BM, North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary / BME, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil / MM, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil / PhD, Baylor University (present)

Armindo Ferreira was born in Recife, in northeast Brazil, into a family that was not involved in music or religion. His conversion to Christianity at age 18 was followed by a strong sense of calling to serve God and the Church through music. He studied church music, modern languages, and music education, and in 2012 he joined the faculty of *Seminário Teológico Batista do Norte do Brasil* (STBNB). Concurrently, he served as choir director and pianist in a local congregation. change to his last name, Ferreira’s research focuses on congregational singing, Brazilian hymnody, and the practice of Christian ministry in dialogue with historical and ethnomusicological perspectives.

**James V. Riofrio**

BA, University of Connecticut / MDiv, Duke Divinity School / ThM, Duke Divinity School / PhD, Drew University (present)

Originally from Ecuador, James Riofrio moved to the United States at a young age when his family relocated to pastor a Hispanic/Latine congregation in Stamford, Connecticut. Shaped by stories of his family's displacement due to industrialization and extraction, Riofrio has witnessed the profound socio-environmental impacts these practices have had in communities across Latin America and the United States. His academic and personal journeys are deeply intertwined, rooted in the lived experiences of marginalized peoples. In addition to earning two master's degrees, he received a certificate in Latinx Studies at Duke Divinity School, where he served as a fellow with the Hispanic House of Studies, president of the Latine student group, and a mentor to fellow students. Riofrio's research centers on the Global South Christian voices, which are often overlooked in the climate change discourse. His doctoral project explores effective, justice-oriented climate responses informed by these often-neglected perspectives.

**Eve Marie Schwartz**

BA, College of The Holy Cross / MDiv, Harvard Divinity School / PhD, Emory University (present)

Eve Marie Schwartz was born and raised in Clearwater, Florida by a single mother and her grandmother. The first in her family to attend college, she attended College of the Holy Cross where she fostered her love of the study of religion, receiving a BA in Religious Studies and English. She went on to Harvard Divinity School where she focused her studies on the clerical abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. Her research focuses on the relationship between clerically abused bodies and the Eucharist, operating out of a deconstructive sacramental theological framework. Through her research, she aims to widen the altar, making space for those who have been harmed by the church and to find ways to re-engage with the divine and divine practice.





Second-Year Doctoral Scholars

HTI has assigned a mentor to these scholars for the 2025–2026 academic year.



Claudia Marcela Alvarez Hurtado

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

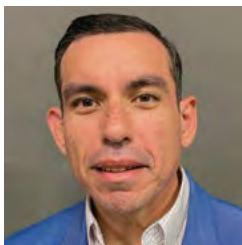
Claudia Marcela Alvarez Hurtado is originally from Colombia. Before moving to the United States, she pursued degrees in Sociology, Feminist and Gender Studies, and Cultural Studies. Her involvement in LGBTQ+ and reproductive justice activism made her passionate about faith-based communities that speak 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, which took place in Bogotá, Colombia. The event brought together 14 LGBTQ+ 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.



Jeffrey Bamaca

BA, Vanguard University / MAT, Fuller Theological Seminary / PhD, Claremont Graduate University (present)

Jeffrey Bamaca was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles to immigrant parents from Veracruz, Mexico. Initially drawn to vocational ministry while earning a degree in pastoral studies from Vanguard University, his encounter with the academic study of the New Testament broadened his focus and interests, leading him to pursue graduate studies. His research now bridges the ancient world and the present, focusing on the Gospels (especially the Gospel of John) and critically examining enslavement, not just as a historical reality but also as a phenomenon with modern resonances. Through his work in New Testament criticism and reception history, Bamaca is committed to uncovering and elevating the narratives of those who have been historically marginalized and challenging contemporary forms of injustice. Moreover, as a first-generation college graduate and son of immigrant parents, Bamaca is committed to serving the Latine migrant community by working towards providing educational pathways and theological education.



David Javier Bayardo

BA, Saint Joseph Abbey and Seminary College / MDiv, The University of Saint Thomas / MATS, The University of Saint Thomas / PhD, Oblate School of Theology (present)

David J. Bayardo holds the Director of Mission Integration position at the University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (UIWSOM) and has worked within the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) Mission and Ministry department since 2019. He has been actively involved as a ministry and religious education leader since he earned his bachelor's degree. Inspired by his passion to serve others and the Church, David earned two master's degrees. Over the past ten years, Bayardo has served in didactic, ministerial, and administrative roles in Catholic parishes, schools, and other institutions. He plans to dedicate his research to Spirituality in Institutional Mission and Leadership.

**Colton R. Bernasol**

BA, Wheaton College / MTS, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary / PhD, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (present)

Colton Bernasol (he/him) is based in Chicago, Illinois. His research interests include liberation and political theologies, the relationship between Christian theology and projects of imperialism, and the capacity for religion to inspire anti-imperial resistance. Bernasol serves as the managing editor for *The Bias*, with the Institute for Christian Socialism.

**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 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His master's thesis examined how the security forces in Rio de Janeiro have employed the sacrificial narratives of Christianity to legitimize violence against Black youth in favelas. He investigated the interplay between religion, race, militarization, neoliberalism, and theories of sacrifice to illustrate how race is central to contemporary bio-necropolitics in Brazil. He is pursuing doctoral studies to broaden his research on religion and violence to include ecological and environmental concerns. Additionally, dos Anjos is interested in ecology, cosmology, coloniality, environmental justice, Afro-Amerindian perspectivism, process and difference philosophies, theory of religion, political theology, and eschatology.

**Juan Martínez Benavides**

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

Juan Martínez Benavides was born and raised in San Salvador, El Salvador, on the ancestral lands of the Nahua people. His research explores how religious histories and discourses shape political memory and collective action in El Salvador and across the Central American isthmus. Drawing on cultural trauma studies, critical and decolonial theory, and liberation theologies, he investigates how theologies and praxes of resistance contribute to healing and justice in societies marked by colonial and systemic violence.

**David Enrique Miranda**

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

David Enrique Miranda is a first-generation Nicaraguan-American from New Orleans, Louisiana. Specializing in Theology, David's research interests focus on the intersection between queer and mystical theologies in Christianity, paying special attention to Latin-American/Spanish-speaking contexts. He has experience working in college campus ministry and most recently worked in Admissions at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. During his first year at Yale, David was a Graduate Fellow at the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration.



The image of a greenhouse is most appropriate for the HTI community! I have been nurtured in this community, and in turn, I have been able to nurture the next generation of HTI scholars. This dynamic could only happen in an environment where generosity, gratitude, care for the other, and a collective vision for a better future are cultivated. Over the past 27 years I have been involved with HTI in different roles. On the one hand, I have been a recipient. I received a dissertation fellowship that allowed me to finish my doctorate, and I participated in the former Latinas in Theology where I was nurtured as a young Latina in the academia. On the other hand, I have shared with the younger generations of Latine scholars as a mentor, dissertation selection committee member, Latina sage, intern supervisor, and speaker at different HTI events where scholars are nurtured and empowered. My HTI involvement has been one of receiving and giving, and for this I am most grateful! I cannot imagine my academic life without the nurturing environment that HTI provides.

Nora O. Lozano, PhD

Executive Director

Christian Latina Leadership Institute

**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, Rivera 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 returning 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 earning a BA in Theology in Brazil, he moved to the United States to continue his academic development and vocational discovery journey. His scholarly interests include the doctrine of creation, Christology, Trinitarian theology, 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 global political issues.

**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 aspires 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; he seeks to explore venues to improve the exegetical method in service of the church and her servant-leaders in Latin America.

**Yaheli Vargas-Ramos**

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

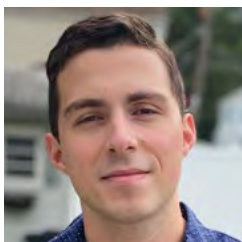
Yaheli Vargas-Ramos was born and raised in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. In his doctoral program, Vargas-Ramos is interested in studying the debt-salvation relationship that exists in both the Bible and Christian theology and how this manifests itself in the colonial context of Puerto Rico. Drawing from the 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.





Third-Year Scholars (Comprehensive-Exams Year)

HTI has assigned a mentor to these scholars for the 2025–2026 academic year.



Luis N. Alvarado

BA, Columbia University / MA, The University of Chicago Divinity School / PhD, The 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 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 Baz-Garza 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 Youth and Family Ministry degree. However, while at Abilene, 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.



Kimberly Melgoza

BA, University of Southern California / MAR, Yale Divinity School / PhD, University of Denver/Illiff School of Theology (present)

Kimberly Melgoza was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She began her undergraduate degree by pursuing the field of medicine with the hopes of becoming a doctor in substance abuse, but after one course in religious studies, she fell in love with storytelling. Melgoza has since then connected her love of medicine and religion by studying Indigenous religions in Mexico and their use of hallucinogenic mushrooms, which are considered sacred. She is interested in Indigenous religions that are not thought to be authentic by the dominant Euro-American culture, and thus she plans to bring them into light by re-telling their stories from an insider's perspective.





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/ 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 Chicanx communities. She was a Summer Pre-Columbian Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, a Graduate Student Associate at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, and a Ford Predoctoral Fellow. Mendoza wrote her master's thesis on copalli (copal), an aromatic tree resin and incense central to rituals and relationships across Mesoamerica.



Laura Marcela Montoya Cifuentes

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

Laura Montoya Cifuentes is a doctoral student in the Person, Community, and Religious Life course of study. Her research examines the theologies and practices of gender and sexuality among Latin American Pentecostal women, as well as intergenerational dynamics within Pentecostalism. Born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia, she completed a six-year program in Psychology at *Universidad Nacional de Colombia*. Afterward, she worked as a community psychologist for eight years, supporting communities affected by the country's sixty-year armed conflict. In addition to her work on Pentecostalism, her academic interests include Feminist Studies, Liberation Theologies, Latin American studies, and Sociology of Religion.



Michelle Elizabeth Navarrete

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

Michelle Elizabeth Navarrete was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs as a daughter of Mexican immigrants. She stays connected with the church community, hoping to bridge the church and academy more fully. People are part of her passion, and she wants her work to reflect that. More specifically, Navarrete is interested in the lament psalms, ritual/liturgy, literary and postcolonial theory, and Nahua Indigenous reception history of the Psalms in post-conquest Tenochtitlán.



Cristian Antoni Piazzetta

BTh, Adventist University of São Paulo, Brazil / 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 early Christians' beliefs, traditions, and practices. 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.

**Paniel Reyes Cárdenas**

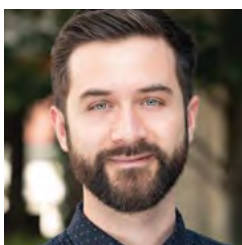
BA, Universidad Panamericana, Mexico / MPhil, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom / PhD, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom / Oblate School of Theology (present)

Paniel Reyes Cárdenas specializes in Eastern Byzantine Hesychast spirituality. With a background in philosophy, Reyes Cárdenas 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, presented papers 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. 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 Lucía Romero Maita**

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

Originally from Peru, Nataly Romero arrived in the United States in 2021 to study for her master's degree. She was ordained in the Methodist Church of Peru as an elder in 2022. Romero is pursuing a PhD in Bible Studies with a major in Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and a minor in New Testament. Her research interests include the narrative texts in Deuteronomistic History, Images of Women in the Hebrew Bible (sex, childbirth, role in society), Feminist Interpretation, and Latin American Feminist Interpretation, incorporating Trauma Studies. Considering the Bible as an authoritative book, especially within Christianity in Latin America, Romero's objective is to respond with interpretations that respond liberally in the middle of patriarchal contexts.

**Eric Daniel Villalobos**

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

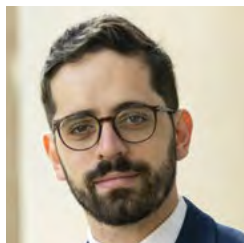
Eric Villalobos is a Chicano from Los Angeles, California, born to parents from Guadalajara, Mexico. His research focuses on Jainism and South Asian religious studies more broadly. His current project examines the relationship between Jain monasticism, Indian Indigenous medicine, and the encounter of 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 and Gujarati.





Proposal and Research Scholars

These scholars have passed comprehensive exams and are at the early stages of their dissertation proposal. HTI has assigned them an editor for the 2025–2026 academic year.



Fernando Berwig Silva

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

A drummer since his teenage years, Fernando 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. He has premiered compositions at the intersection of church and concert music in Europe, the United States, and Brazil. Currently, Berwig Silva acts as a committee member for the Christian Congregational Music Conference. His research engages with church music, decolonial, and Latin American scholarship; moreover, Berwig Silva is interested in understanding how ideas of race, ethnicity, and coloniality are expressed in music practices of Latin American Christian communities.



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, offer a critical perspective of euro-centered aestheticism, and 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.



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 migrated 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 very 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.

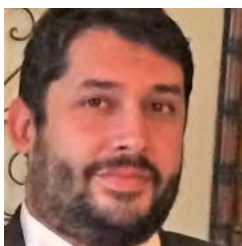


You may be familiar with the parable of the Sower; however, I do not consider myself one of the fruitful plants. Instead, I resemble a wild weed that has thrived among stones, surrounded by other weeds. Nevertheless, the Master Tiller has been working to transform me, and HTI has played a significant role in that journey. HTI serves not only as a sanctuary and a source of resources for personal development but also as a catalyst for transformative cross-pollination. Engaging in worship that embraces the richness of diverse traditions and receiving guidance from those who interpret the Scriptures through various lenses has contributed to the shedding of my 'thorns' and the enhancement of my 'floral' essence.

Efraín Velázquez II, PhD

President

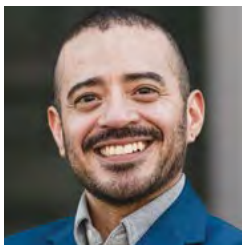
Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary



Jibreel Delgado Trabal

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

Jibreel 'Biel' 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; Delgado Trabal concentrates 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. His research focuses on critically investigating how 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 care ethics and decolonial theology by weaving interdisciplinary Afro-Latine epistemologies with decolonial theology and spiritual care, with its focus on pluriversal healing justice as a site from which to theologize and investigate how lived religion informs individual and collective healing. His work aims to shift and illuminate the ways memory, story, and relationality contour religious identities.



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 multicultural settings and has been drawn to cross-cultural living for her entire life. After serving low-income urban schools as a teacher and administrator for fifteen years, Garrote began transitioning career paths by entering Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary in 2019. There, she developed a love and appreciation for Biblical Studies and exegesis but was most drawn to the history of Christianity, especially as it equips church leaders to help their congregations understand themselves and their social context. In 2022, Garrote began doctoral work in the Historical Studies division of Baylor's Religion Department. Her scholarship focuses on post-WWII American evangelical parachurch networks and their racial reconciliation efforts. Through HTI's internship program, Garrote has served as an editorial intern with Westminster John Knox Press.





Joryán Hernández

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

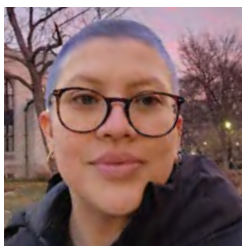
Joryán Hernández was born in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba, and immigrated to the United States when he was nine years old. As a PhD student in Peace Studies and Theology, his research interests are at the intersection of trauma, displacement, theologies of hope, and peacebuilding. He is particularly 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 capable of alleviating trauma and actualizing radical changes to repressive conditions. He believes a better future must be imagined, as José Martí said, "*Con todos y para el bien de todos.*"



Evelmyn Ivens

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

Evelmyn Ivens was born in Mexico and immigrated to Pasadena, California, as a teenager. She identifies as a 1.5-generation immigrant who lives in a constant tension of in-betweenness. Ivens is interested in exploring cultural practices that can provide a creative lens for thinking through theology. Her research focuses on hospitality and commensality practices, their theological, ecological, and ethical implications, in addition to the role of women in these spaces, and how these practices can challenge dominant theological and sociocultural narratives. Ivens is passionate about teaching, learning, and addressing the lack of access to theological education for underrepresented groups.



Paola Marquez Leones

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

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



Amirah 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 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.



**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.

**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 seventh-grade English teacher from Northwest Indiana. Rivera is pursuing a PhD in Christian Education and Congregational Studies with concentrations in critical digital pedagogies, digital theo-ethics, and digital theological anthropology. Rivera believes 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. Currently residing in the Edgewater neighborhood on the Northside of Chicago, Rivera demonstrates these commitments in preaching, teaching, community engagement, research, and writing.

**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. Using an interdisciplinary approach, her research explores the intersection of Indigenous, African, Spanish, and Portuguese religious influences that shape Dominican spirituality both on the island and throughout its diaspora—particularly in the United States. She centers the roles of gender and race in understanding how Dominican spiritual identities are formed and lived, with special attention to how practitioners use digital technologies to carry out and transform their rituals, traditions, and spiritual practices. Her work highlights how these digital expressions shape Dominican understandings of religion and identity while also creating sacred spaces for belonging and meaning across diasporic landscapes.





René Velarde

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

René Velarde grew up in Salinas, California—an agricultural community where his Mexican immigrant family settled. As the first in his family to graduate college, Velarde brings to his scholarship 15 years of church leadership experience as a pastor. He also built a successful 10-year business helping non-profits improve their digital presence. Now pursuing his PhD at Fuller Theological Seminary, Velarde studies how racial experiences shape how Latine-Californians understand “peace” and “well-being” (what the Bible calls “Shalom”). His research listens to Latine voices to uncover how racial stress affects their spiritual and emotional health. Through in-depth conversations and careful analysis, Velarde aims to bridge divides in churches and communities by revealing patterns of racial trauma often overlooked in mainstream settings. His work offers practical insights for faith leaders, counselors, and community builders seeking to create more inclusive, healing spaces for people from diverse backgrounds.

Dissertation Year Scholars

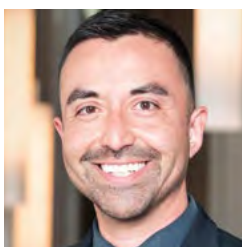
These scholars are writing their dissertations. Each will receive editorial assistance throughout the 2025–2026 academic year.



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 La Paz, Bolivia for three years, where he attended a local primary school and was surrounded by his extended Bolivian family—an experience that shaped and solidified his own Bolivian identity. At Princeton Seminary, he received the Princeton Seminary Fellowship, the Henry Snyder Gehman Award in Old Testament, and the Senior Fellowship in Old Testament. Most recently, he was named one of two Emerging Scholar Fellows in Old Testament by the Catholic Biblical Association. His research languages include Spanish, French, German, Hebrew (classical and historical), Koine Greek, Aramaic (various dialects), Akkadian, and Ugaritic. His interests lie in the literary, theological, and historical approaches to the Hebrew Bible. As an aspiring minister, he especially hopes to bring the local church into theological and academic conversations.



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 who has questions about his Seventh-day Adventist beliefs.



Austin Mathew Cruz

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

Austin 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 Roman Catholic canonization process. His dissertation focuses on the role of history and hagiography in the canonization of Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin. Cruz hopes to serve the Church and academia by expanding access to theological education in underserved communities, especially Latine communities.



Stephen R. Di Trollo

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

Stephen Di Trollo is a PhD Candidate in the Department of History and Ecumenics at Princeton Theological Seminary, specializing in "Religion in the Americas." Stephen was born in Costa Rica and grew up in Argentina, where he returned after graduating from university in the United States. He is writing his dissertation on Protestantism, Catholic Nationalism, and political history in Argentina in the twentieth century. Di Trollo is the recipient of the Julian Gwyn Essay Prize, the Louisville Doctoral Fellowship, and the Jackson Scholar for Latin American Studies (BSIR Baylor University). As a native Spanish speaker, he is an active translator of various books, essays, and chapters in edited volumes. In 2023, he translated Pope Francis's book, *I Am Asking in the Name of God* (Penguin Random House, 2023). Di Trollo has completed coursework in the Sociology of Culture program at the *Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales* at the *Universidad Nacional de San Martín*, Argentina.



A greenhouse provides the ideal conditions for plants to grow strong and healthy, according to their unique needs. It offers protection and space for deep roots to form until the plant is ready to face the elements of the outside world. HTI has been that kind of greenhouse for me—a space of intentional care, support, and formation. It nurtures scholars according to their God-given gifts and contributes to shaping them into wise, resilient leaders ready to thrive in ministry, academia, and community life.

Even after we step beyond HTI's direct care, we are never truly disconnected. In moments of challenge or when we need renewal, we know we can always return to the greenhouse. HTI continues to be a source of wisdom and strength, walking with us throughout the journey.

Alma Tinoco Ruiz, PhD

Royce and Jane Reynolds Assistant Professor of the Practice of Homiletics and Evangelism,
Director of the Hispanic House of Studies, and Foundation for Evangelism Fellow
Duke Divinity School



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 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)

Katherine Guerrero is a PhD student in Religious Studies. A Fellow with the Forum for Theological Education (2023), the Louisville Institute (2022) and Yale's Center for Race Indigeneity and Transnational Migration (2021), Guerrero's research recounts her journey through the US-Mexican Border as a teenager to critically dissect the role religion plays in the formation and legitimization of borders. Her work analyzes Christianity as both the conceptual realm legitimizing border structures and the venue by which migrant women's spiritualities can emerge as sites of knowledge through which we can better understand the depths and complexities of border spaces.



Sarah Kothe *

BA, Boston College / MTS, Emory University / PhD, Emory University (present)

Sarah Kothe's research centers 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 to uncover and address 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 access 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 farmworkers and raised in the desert landscape of California's Coachella Valley. His research focuses on the New Testament and early Christianity, with a particular interest in healing and health practices in the ancient Mediterranean. His dissertation examines whether modern frameworks of addiction can meaningfully engage with ancient medical, philosophical, and religious discourses on substance use. By identifying patterns of addiction in antiquity, analyzing rhetorical critiques of drunkenness, and challenging entrenched historical interpretations, his work seeks to disrupt narratives that perpetuate stigma and discrimination against individuals with addictive behaviors.



Jacob Leal

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

Jacob Leal is a Xicano from Texas whose research is influenced by his *abuela's* stories of ancestral visitations. His work explores the continuing presence of the dead, revealing how Xicane ancestral veneration is rooted in a Mesoamerican worldview that recognizes the dead as remaining alongside their descendants. Through surviving traditions, ancestors remind Xicanes of their essential yet fragmented memories, including Indigenous struggles against colonialism. He realizes the importance of inclusive academic spaces that create opportunities for Latines, like his grandmother, to tell their stories. As an organizer, Leal is action-oriented. He hopes that his academic work, as a reflection on the Indigenous Mesoamerican struggle against oppression, does not remain on paper but transforms into historical action toward Xicane and Indigenous liberation.



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 sixteenth century. Mendez's research interests include the relationship between religion and political economy, Latin American cultural studies, and philosophy and radical politics.

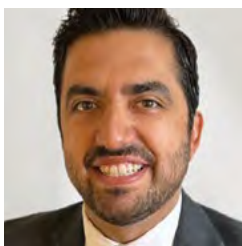


Kenia Vanessa Mendoza

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.





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.



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.



Jacob Palma

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

Born and raised in Merced, California, Jacob Palma 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 marginalized actors often overlooked in classical Pentecostal mission history. To accomplish this, he is investigating the Mexican Apostolic mission initiative and its local reception in Uruguay in the 1950s. Palma hopes to decenter and reframe dominant narratives of Oneness Pentecostal origins by employing a World Christianity approach to Pentecostal historiography.





Izak Santana

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

Izak Santana was raised under the burning sunsets and infinite stars of West Texas. Brought up by a single mother of Native-Hispanic origins, his family overcame countless struggles in the search for stability, community, and purpose, all the while holding their hopes together in a person called “Jesus.” This led to Santana’s exploration, from a young age, of every “kind” of Christianity, and eventually human spirituality, that he could discover as he tried to reconcile what he knew of God from his own life with what the world’s people have testified about God in theirs. This drive animates his work as a theologian as he draws from theology, philosophy, history, and the broader study of religion to construct theologies that strive to honor the truth of God and the miracle of being human which, of course, cannot be separated. His dissertation project focuses on constructing a novel theory of Christian revelation in conversation with liberationist and existentialist traditions of theology.

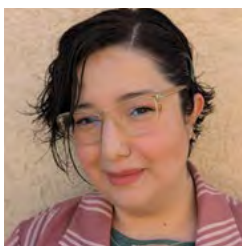


Noemi Vega Quiñones

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

Noemi Vega Quiñones is a PhD candidate in Religious Ethics. Vega Quiñones migrated with her family to the United States when she was five and fell in love with reading when she was eight. 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. She received the Thesis of the Year award from Fresno Pacific University, the Mustang Fellowship from Southern Methodist University, the Schubert M. Ogden Award for Academic Excellence in Theology, and the Louisville Dissertation Fellowship. Vega Quiñones’s research interests include virtue ethics, *buen vivir*, migration, Latina Feminist epistemologies, and co-constructive ethnographies. Vega Quiñones aspires to contribute to the work of migration ethics *en conjunto* with her communities.





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 and 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.



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 (United Kingdom). He serves as the director of the Spanish Academic Program at Trinity Anglican Seminary and is discerning a call to ordained ministry in the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). Zamora is interested in understanding how the Hebrew prophets employed images of 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 the prevalent 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 church and society.



My development and thriving as a scholar and an administrator in theological education owes much to the mentorship, support, and community that the Hispanic Theological Initiative has made possible over the years. HTI and its leadership **continue to cultivate** spaces where grantees, mentor-scholars, and a broader network of friends and supporters invest in one another, understanding that tending to the individual holistically also means tending to communities of support and accountability. The lessons I learned through HTI in community building, striving for excellence, and accountability to the generations of scholar-leaders who came before and to the next generation have been deeply formative. These lessons continue to inform the ways in which I have shaped my scholarly work and leadership.

Elías Ortega, PhD

President

Meadville Lombard Theological School

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*, a series of blogs and podcasts addressing the urgent, on-the-ground challenges faced by Latine communities during the pandemic. Confronting the ongoing realities of racism and anti-Black violence, *AfroSpiritus* emerged to counter harmful rhetoric and uplift the sacredness of human dignity and community. Additional series followed, including *Theological Education Between the Times (TEBT)*, *Poetry*, multilingual content in Spanish and Portuguese, and *Encuentro Carlos de Foucauld*—all available to explore through blog posts and podcast episodes on the website.

Amidst its latest renovation, Open Plaza is introducing two new series: *Holy Subversions*, which offers a collection of practical theological resources, and *Nested Identities*, featuring scholars who challenge theological discourse through their distinct intersectional perspectives.

Faculty-Led Team

Eric Barreto
Isabel Gonzalez

Jacqueline Hidalgo
Daniel Ramírez

Joanne Rodríguez
Santiago Slabodsky

Production Team

Isabel Gonzalez

David Rosario

Marta Lucía Vargas



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.

Editorial Staff:

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Senior Editor
Socorro Castañeda,
Associate Editor
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Joanne Rodríguez,
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 at 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.



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 the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA) jointly established the Latinx Doctoral Accompaniment Seminar (LDAS).

The LDAS program supports Latine senior master's students with the application process for PhD programs. Master's students in their final year of coursework who are enrolled in HTI or HSP member schools or are participants in the HYLA programming are eligible to apply.

LDAS offers the following benefits:

- Virtual two-credit course* designed to strengthen applications to PhD programs
- Editorial support
- Mentoring by accomplished Latine scholars in a variety of disciplines
- Resources to attend and network at the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meetings (AAR/SBL)

The resources provided by the LDAS program help ensure that Latine students have the tools to successfully navigate the PhD application process.

For more information about this program, visit **htiprogram.org**.

**Course credits are typically granted but are contingent upon the applicants' institution agreeing to the program's terms and conditions.*



HTI PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The annual Professional Development Conference (PDC) is a four-day in-person meeting. It offers faculty-led courses in:

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

The courses offered are divided into five different levels and focus on relevant material to help students navigate their current PhD level.

The PDC is structured to facilitate networking among scholars from different institutions, connections with faculty members, and meetings with HTI mentors or editors. The conference also includes the Book Prize Banquet and Lecture.

I am a product of the HTI biosphere. What I received while being an HTI scholar during the dissertation writing stage of my PhD—practical writing strategies, mentorship, accompaniment, and accountability—I am now able to extend to others. HTI helped demystify the academy for me and enabled me to embrace my culture as part of the gift I bring to my work and scholarship. As I mentor students at HTI, my alma mater, and my current institution—passing on to them what HTI sowed and nurtured in me—my hope is that they will be able to stand confidently in their gifts and that *en conjunto* we can bring them to full bloom.

Xochitl Alvizo, PhD

Associate Professor of Religious Studies
California State University, Northridge

HTI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In 2018, with the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc., HTI launched the Internship Program, an initiative designed to strengthen the leadership capabilities of HTI Scholars. This virtual program allows scholars to acquire essential skills and knowledge in nonprofit environments while fostering partnerships that can significantly expand their professional networks. The partnerships developed through the program enrich participants' scholarship and discipline and pave the way for future employment opportunities.

Each internship allows the student to work remotely with a stipend and travel funds. It also provides a stipend for the site supervisor.

Participant benefits:

- Develop leadership skills 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

Institution benefit:

- Gain additional support for projects
- Learn new ways to approach teaching, learning, and leading

Hispanic-serving non-profits interested in partnering with HTI and working with an HTI scholar may visit httprogram.org for more information.



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



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, with the support of the Lilly Endowment Inc., HTI launched the Early Career Orientation (ECO) program. This program is by invitation only and aims to equip recent PhD graduates with practical skills and knowledge to effectively navigate their institution and contribute meaningfully to its leadership.

Through a series of workshops, the ECO provides tools and resources to help graduates:

- Understand their institution better, reducing the time it takes to settle into their positions
- Build strong relationships with the presidents, deans, and other faculty members
- Discover best practices to support their institution
- Strengthen their teaching and leadership skills
- Learn effective negotiation techniques and how to engage in meetings
- Recognize the importance of self-care during major career transitions
- Write a tenure plan and establish a book publication timeline over the next five years

LATINAS IN LEADERSHIP

In 2021, HTI launched the Latinas in Leadership (LIL) program with the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc. This program is by invitation only and focuses on offering Latinas in bi-vocational, entrepreneurial, and mid-level careers the opportunity to develop skills that create sustainable practices to support them throughout their careers.

This year-long program includes both in-person and virtual meetings and is designed to help participants:

- Create an individualized *Proyecto Vital*, an action plan aimed at assisting participants to move toward their leadership goals in a sustainable, holistic, and viable manner
- Complete assessments with certified executive coaches to identify their strengths, stresses, and leadership approaches
- Develop skills and knowledge applicable to their current profession
- Engage in peer learning with Latina leaders who possess advanced skills and leadership experience



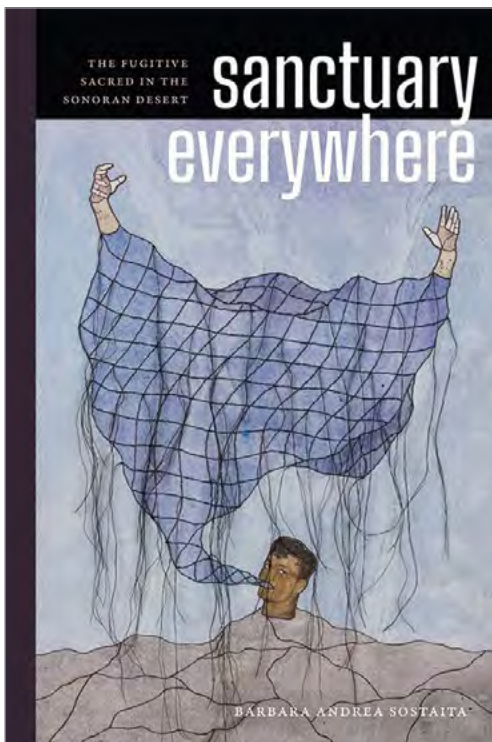
HTI BOOK PRIZE

The Book Prize was established in 2002 to motivate junior scholars to publish in their field. Each year, the award recognizes and rewards the best book written by a junior Latine scholar on theology and/or religion. The prize includes a monetary award and a guest lectureship at the annual Professional Development Conference.

The Book Prize aims 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

2024 Book Prize Winner



*Sanctuary Everywhere:
The Fugitive Sacred in the Sonoran Desert*

by Dr. Barbara Andrea Sostaita

Past Book Prize Winners

2023	<i>Insurrectionist Wisdoms: Toward a North American Indigenized Pastoral Theology</i> by Dr. Marlene Mayra Ferreras	2012	<i>Mestizaje: (Re) Mapping Race, Culture, and Faith in Latino/a Catholicism</i> by Dr. Néstor Medina
2022	<i>Migrational Religion: Context and Creativity in the Latinx Diaspora</i> by Dr. João Chaves	2011	<i>Divino Compañero: Toward a Hispanic Pentecostal Christology</i> by Dr. Sammy Alfaro
	<i>Centering Hope as a Sustainable Decolonial Practice: Esperanza en Práctica</i> by Dr. Yara González Justiniano	2010	<i>Bearing the Weight of Salvation: The Soteriology of Ignacio Ellacuría</i> by Dr. Michael E. Lee
2021	<i>Commodified Communion: Eucharist, Consumer Culture, and the Practice of Everyday Life</i> by Dr. Antonio E. Alonso	2009	<i>From Patmos to the Barrio: Subverting Imperial Myths</i> by Dr. David Sánchez
	<i>The Saints of Santa Ana: Faith and Ethnicity in a Mexican Majority City</i> by Dr. Jonathan E. Calvillo	2008	<i>Mozarabs, Hispanics & The Cross</i> by Dr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz
	<i>Predicadores: Hispanic Preaching and Immigrant Identity</i> by Dr. Tito Madrazo	2005	<i>Latino Pentecostal Identity: Evangelical Faith, Self, and Society</i> by Dr. Arlene Sánchez-Walsh
2020	<i>In Place and Identity in the Lives of Antony, Paul, and Mary of Egypt: Desert as Borderland</i> by Dr. Peter Anthony Mena	2004	<i>Sor Juana: Beauty and Justice in the Americas</i> by Dr. Michelle González-Maldonado
2019	<i>Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood</i> by Dr. Patrick Reyes	2003	<i>Mapping Public Theology</i> by Dr. Benjamin Valentín
2018	<i>Cain, Abel, and the Politics of God: An Agambenian reading of Genesis 4:1-16</i> by Dr. Julian Andrés González Holguín	2002	<i>On Being Human: U.S. Hispanic and Rahnerian Perspectives</i> by Dr. Miguel Díaz





HTI SUCCESS

HTI Master's Graduates from 1997 to 2002

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

Rafael Acosta
Harvard Divinity School

Judy A. Armas López
Franciscan School of Theology

Diana Ávila (deceased)
Jesuit School of Theology

Maricarmen C. Castro
San Francisco Theological Seminary

César Chaves
Pacific School of Religion

Martín Concepción
McCormick Theological Seminary

Claudio Díaz
University of St. Mary of the Lake

María Díaz
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Carlo J. Ellard
Yale Divinity School

Víctor Feliberty-Ruberté, PhD
Columbia Theological Seminary

Verónica García
Harvard Divinity School

Adelita Garza
Fuller Theological Seminary

Thomas Laporté, PhD
Candler School of Theology at
Emory University

Juan Gabriel Lara
University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Jaime López
Harvard Divinity School

Nelly Lorenzo
Loyola University (Chicago)

Maricarmen Laureano-Ortega
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Ewin Martínez
Union Theological Seminary
in the City of New York

Hjamil Martínez-Vázquez, PhD
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

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

Marco Mercado López
University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Pedro E. Miranda-Torres
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Carmen Moreno (Albarrán)
Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Felix Muñoz
Ashland Theological Seminary

Magdiel Narváez Negrón
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

Daniela Nogués
San Francisco Theological Seminary

Carlos Parra, PhD
Harvard Divinity School

Santiago Piñon, PhD
The University of Chicago

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

David Ramos
Princeton Theological Seminary

Ricardo Ramos, DMin
Drew University Theological School

Mayra Rivera, PhD
Drew University Theological School

Saúl Rivera
Andrews University

Rady Roldán-Figueroa, PhD
New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Ariel Rodríguez (deceased)
Drew University Theological School

Armando Rodríguez Jr., PhD
Garrett-Evangelical
Theological Seminary

América Rojas
Pacific School of Religion

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

Gabriel A. Salguero
New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Angel Santiago-Vendrell, PhD
Church of God Theological Seminary

María I. Santiviago-Espinal
New York Theological Seminary

Carmelo Santos, PhD
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at Chicago

David G. Soto-Valenzuela
Drew University Theological School

Hamleth Terrones
Fuller Theological Seminary

Lorena Maria Thompson Thompson
Emory University

Felipe Vaglienty
University of St. Mary of the Lake

Brendaly Vélez
Fuller Theological Seminary

Christopher Ysaïs
Harvard Divinity School



HTI PhD Graduates from 1997 to 2025

For 29 years, HTI has supported 183 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.

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St. John Lutheran Church, San Juan, Texas

Andrés Roberto Albertsen

Pastor
Iglesia Luterana Paz y Esperanza Visitation
Pastor
Winje Lutheran Church, Willmar, Minnesota

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Paul W. Powell Endowed Chair in Preaching
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Salvador Leavitt-Alcántara

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Affiliate Faculty in Religious Studies, Gender, and Women's Studies and Mexican-American Studies
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Sammy G. Alfaro

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Antonio (Tony) E. Alonso

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

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Edwin David Aponte

Dean
Professor of Religion and Culture
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Neomi DeAnda

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Janan Delgado

Independent Scholar

Kristian Díaz

Independent Scholar

Miguel Díaz

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in Public Service
Loyola University Chicago
US Ambassador to the Holy See (2009–2012) **Retired**

Esther Díaz-Bolet

Independent Scholar

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Jennifer Fernández

Consultant & Independent Scholar

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Senior Librarian & Director of the Goddard Library
Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary

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and Social Change
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Clinical Pastoral Education Specialist
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Society of the Divine Savior (Salvatorians), Italy

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Centro Educativo de Estudios Bíblicos

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Yara González-Justiniano

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Vanderbilt University

Michael Remedios Grigoni

Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics
Wake Forest University

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Assistant Professor of Theology
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Leticia Guardiola-Sáenz (deceased)

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Lauren Guerra

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University of California, Los Angeles

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Bethel University

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Yale University

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Independent Scholar

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Acquisitions Librarian
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Jacqueline Hidalgo

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University of San Diego

Felipe Hinojosa

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

Suzanne Hoeferkamp-Segovia

Independent Scholar

Iriann Marie Irizarry

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José Irizarry

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Director of the Hispanic Ministries Program
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Lynwood Grace Church, Lynwood, California

Nora Lozano

Executive Director
Christian Latina Leadership Institute San Antonio, Texas

Tito Madrazo

Program Director in the Religion Division
Lilly Endowment Inc.

Hugo Magallanes

Director, CASA
Director, United Methodist Regional Course of Study
School for Local Pastors
Associate Professor of Christianity and Cultures
Perkins School of Theology
Southern Methodist University

Vinicius Marinho

Independent Scholar

Loida I. Martell

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

Hjamil Alfonso Martínez-Vázquez

Bilingual Teacher
Crowley Independent School District, Texas

Roberto Mata

Associate Professor of Contextual Biblical Studies
Santa Clara University

Gilberto Medina

President
Gilberto Medina Ministries

Lara Medina

Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies
California State University, Northridge

Néstor Medina

Associate Professor of Religious Ethics and Culture
Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University
of Toronto

Manuel Jesús Mejido Costoya

Visiting Professor, Department of Sociology
Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Peter Anthony Mena

Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
University of San Diego

Angel F. Méndez Montoya

Professor of Philosophy of Religion
Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico

Luis Menéndez Antuña

Associate Professor of New Testament
Boston University School of Theology

Maria Julia Monteiro

Lecturer in Church Music
Baylor University

Juan Carlos Morales

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

José Francisco Morales Torres

Associate Professor of Comparative
Theology & Philosophy
Chicago Theological Seminary

Matilde K. Moros (deceased)

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

Rubén Muñoz-Larrondo

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies
Andrews University

Adriana Pilar Nieto

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

Oswald John Nira

Professor of Religion, **Retired**
Our Lady of the Lake University

Michael Orellana Méndez

Postdoctoral Fellow
Andrews University

Elias Ortega Aponte

President
Meadville Lombard Theological School

Jennifer Owens Jofré

Assistant Professor of Practical Theology
Loyola Marymount University

Elaine Padilla

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

Melissa Pagán

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

Samuel Pagán

Assistant Professor of Religion
Burman University

Segundo Pantoja

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Ethnic and Race Studies
Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

Francisco J Peláez-Díaz

Assistant Teaching Professor in Latinx Ministries
Drew University

Elaine Penagos

Assistant Professor of Religion
Trinity University

Adam A. Perez

Assistant Professor of Worship Studies
Belmont University

Zaida Maldonado Pérez

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

Altagracia Pérez Bullard

Associate Dean of Multicultural Ministries
Assistant Professor of Practical Theology
Virginia Theological Seminary

Jonathan Pimentel Chacón

Professor
Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica

Santiago O. Piñón

Associate Professor of Religion
Texas Christian University

Carina O. Prestes

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

Flavio Prestes III

Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies
The Adventist University Center of São Paulo Engenheiro
Coelho, São Paulo, Brazil

Daniel Ramírez

Associate Professor of Religions
Claremont Graduate University

Erica Ramirez

Senior Director
Louisville Institute

Mónica Isabel Rey

Adjunct Professor of Gender Studies
Babson College

Rafael Reyes III

Inaugural Senior Advisor for Flourishing and Belonging
Columbia Theological Seminary

Luan Henrique Gomes Ribeiro

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow
Princeton Theological Seminary

Christopher C. Rios-Sueverkruebbe

Grant Proposal Development Coordinator
Stony Brook University

Mayra Rivera

Professor of Religion and Latinx Studies
Harvard University

Jesús Rodríguez

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

Martin Daniel Rodríguez

Assistant Professor of Practical Theology
Azusa Pacific University

Diana Elizabeth Rodríguez Click

Independent Scholar



Armando J. Rodríguez, Jr.

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

Jorge Juan Rodríguez V

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

Carla Elena Roland-Guzmán

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

Rady Roldán-Figueroa

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Professor of the History of Christianity
Boston University School of Theology

Louis Benjamin Rolsky

Independent Scholar

Miguel J. Romero

Associate Professor, Center for Healthcare Ethics
Saint Louis University

Alexandra M. Rosado-Román

Faculty Associate in Gender Studies and Caribbean and
Colonial Ethics
Pacific School of Religion

Rubén Rosario Rodríguez

Coordinator MTS and MARE Programs
Clarence Louis and Helen Steber Professor
of Theological Studies
St. Louis University

Norman Ruano

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

Gilberto A. Ruiz

Associate Professor of Theology
Saint Anselm College

Elyssa Salinas-Lazarski

Independent Scholar

Christian Sánchez

Assistant Professor of New Testament
Union Presbyterian Seminary

David A. Sánchez (deceased)

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

Leopoldo A. Sánchez M.

Werner R.H. Krause and Elizabeth Ringger Krause
Professor of Hispanic Ministries
Professor of Systematic Theology
Concordia Seminary

Angel Santiago-Vendrell

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

Carmelo Santos-Rolón

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

Eric Joseph Sias

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

Anandi Silva Knuppel

Programmer Writer
Amazon, New York

Crystal Silva-McCormick

Visiting Instructor of Evangelism and Mission
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Pamela J. Stevens

Adjunct Faculty
San Francisco Theological Seminary of the
University of Redlands

Luis Tampe

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

Stephanie Mota Thurston

Assistant Professor of Religion
University of Illinois

Alma Tinoco Ruiz

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

Chris D. Tirres

Michael J. Buckley, S.J. Endowed Chair
Strategic Advisor to the Dean for Mission Integration
Santa Clara University

Theresa L. Torres

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

Jorge Luis Valdés

Independent Scholar

Benjamín Valentín

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

O. Ernesto Valiente

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

Lis E. Valle

Associate Professor of Homiletics
McCormick Theological Seminary

Héctor M. Varela-Rios

Raquel and Alfonso Martínez-Fonts Endowed Assistant
Professor in Latin American Studies Villanova University

Grace Vargas

Assistant Professor of Religion
Texas Christian University

Jared Vazquez

Adjunct Faculty
Iliff School of Theology

Matthew Vega

Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies
University of San Diego

Horacio Vela III

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
University of the Incarnate Word

Efraín Velázquez II

President
Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary

Manuel Villalobos-Mendoza

Affiliated Assistant Professor of
New Testament Interpretation
Chicago Theological Seminary

Seth Anthony Villegas

Postdoctoral Fellow
Boston University Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences

Jonathan Warren

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

Aizaiah G. Yong

Executive Director
Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and
Cultural Research

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

Bennett Boskey Distinguished Visiting Professor
in Latina/o Studies, **Retired**
Williams College

Paul Barton

Pastor
Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, Kerrville, Texas

Rudy V. Busto

Associate Professor of Religious Studies
University of California, Santa Barbara

Miguel A. De La Torre

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

Gastón Espinosa

Arthur V. Stoughton Professor of Religious Studies
Claremont McKenna College

Eduardo C. Fernández, S.J.

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

Luís Daniel León (deceased)

Professor of Religion in the Americas
University of Denver

Francisco Lozada Jr.

Vice President of Academic Affairs & Dean of the Faculty
Professor of New Testament Studies
Christian Theological Seminary

Lara Medina

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

Luis Pedraja

President
Quinsigamond Community College

HTI has opened so many doors for me! When I attended the interview for the first class of doctoral students at HTI, I was impressed to meet accomplished scholars and students embarking on their doctoral journey. Simply being there made me feel successful. In the nearly 30 years of being part of HTI, I have witnessed the transformation of many who, today, are scholars and ministers serving their communities. We are leaders who keep the vision alive. May HTI continue its mission of offering young scholars the pathway to fulfilling their dreams of service and answering God's call to leadership.

Theresa Torres, PhD

Associate Professor of Latinx Studies
UMKC Faculty Senate Chair
University of Missouri-Kansas City



HTI Enrollment by Member Schools from 2008 to 2025

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

Heber 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, PhD

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, PhD

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

Armindo Ferreira

2025–2026 First-Year Doctoral

Leslie Garrote

2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams
2025–2026 Proposal and Research

Robert Vincent Martínez

2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral

María Monteiro, PhD

2020–2021 Dissertation

Milca Rivera

2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral

Kerwin A. Rodriguez

2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2025 Dissertation

Christian Sánchez, PhD

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
2025–2026 Proposal and Research

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
2025–2026 Dissertation

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 Lucia Romero Maita

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

KMarie Tejada

2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2025 Comprehensive Exams
2025–2026 Proposal and Research

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
2024–2026 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
 2024–2026 Dissertation

Laura Marcela Montoya Cifuentes

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
 2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

Michelle Elizabeth Navarette

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
 2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

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

Eve Marie Schwartz

2025–2026 First-Year Doctoral

Breno Nunes de Oliveira Seabra

2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral
 2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral

Eric Daniel Villalobos

2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
 2023–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
 2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

G. Jorge Medina

2018–2020 Second-Year Doctoral
 2020–2021 Comprehensive Exams

Joshua Méndez

2021–2023 Comprehensive Exams
 2023–2026 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
 2025–2026 Dissertation

Aizaiah Yong, PhD

2019–2020 Dissertation

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

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 First-Year Doctoral
 2025–2026 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
 2025–2026 Proposal and Research

Fellipe dos Anjos

2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral
 2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral

Michael J. Anderson

2023–2025 Dissertation

Fernando Linhares

2014–2015 Comprehensive Exams

Juan Martínez Benavides

2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral
 2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral

Peter Anthony Mena, PhD

2010–2011 Comprehensive Exams
 2012–2014 Dissertation

Kenia Vanessa Mendoza

2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
 2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
 2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams
 2024–2025 Proposal and Research
 2025–2026 Dissertation

Erica Michelle Ramírez, PhD

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

James V. Riofrio

2025–2026 First-Year Doctoral

Louis Benjamin Rolsky, PhD

2011–2012 Second-Year Doctoral

Yaheli Vargas-Ramos

2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral
 2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral

Claremont Graduate University, California**Jeffrey Bamaca**

2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral

Melisa Ortiz Berry, PhD

2012–2013 Second-Year Doctoral
 2015–2017 Dissertation

Panayotis “Otis” Coutsoumpas, 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
 2025–2026 Dissertation

Duke Divinity School, North Carolina**Matthew Arakaky**

2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
 2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
 2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams
 2024–2025 Proposal and Research
 2025–2026 Dissertation

Amanda Rachel Bolaños

2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
 2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams
 2025–2026 Proposal and Research

Michael Remedios Grigoni, PhD

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

Alberto Alexander La Rosa Rojas, PhD

2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral
 2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams
 2019–2020 Proposal and Research
 2020–2021 Dissertation



I have been involved with the Hispanic Theological Initiative since its inception. Even as a junior scholar, I was privileged to be invited to join the inaugural Selection Committee, where I worked alongside esteemed senior Latine scholars to identify and support the first cohort of HTI Scholars. I still vividly recall many of the first HTI Scholars we interviewed and selected. In the subsequent years, I continued to serve on various Selection Committees, with each experience being a significant highlight of my academic year.

HTI provided an environment where I grew as a scholar and was equipped to help others grow in their academic journeys. My participation on the HTI Advisory Committee and my role as mentor to several emerging scholars allowed me to give back in meaningful ways. Each of those mentees completed their doctoral studies and are now thriving as professors and leaders in academia. HTI's impact is far-reaching; it has nurtured generations of scholars who, in turn, create environments of learning and transformation in their own institutions.

HTI continues to be a vital part of my academic and vocational journey. Each year, I enjoy being in partnership in one form or another. My deepest gratitude goes to HTI, its leadership, and all the students and scholars it has faithfully served. *¡Pa'lante!*

Efrain Agosto, PhD

Bennett Boskey Distinguished Visiting Professor in Latina/o Studies (through June 2025)
Williams College

Tito Madrazo, PhD

2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral
 2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral
 2015–2016 Comprehensive Exams
 2016–2018 Dissertation

Adam Adrian Perez, PhD

2019–2020 Proposal and Research
 2020–2021 Dissertation

Alma Tinoco Ruiz, PhD

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

Fuller Theological Seminary, California**Mario Eduardo Alas-Escalante**

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

Marcos Canales Avellaneda

2025–2026 First-Year Doctoral

Moisés López, PhD

2010–2011 Comprehensive Exams
 2013–2014 Dissertation

Esteban Gabriel Miranda

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

Jacob Palma

2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
 2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams
 2025–2026 Dissertation

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
 2025–2026 Proposal and Research

Garrett–Evangelical Theological Seminary, Illinois**Colton Bernasol**

2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral

Patricia Bonilla, PhD

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
 2025–2026 Proposal and Research

Jesús Márquez Gaytán (deceased)

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
 2025–2026 Proposal and Research

Emanuel Padilla

2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
 2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
 2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams
 2024–2025 Proposal and Research
 2025–2026 Dissertation

Adriana Rivera

2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
 2023–2025 Comprehensive Exams
 2025–2026 Proposal and Research

Elyssa Salinas-Lazarski, PhD

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

Manuel Villalobos, PhD

2009–2010 Dissertation

Graduate Theological Union, California**José E. Balcells, PhD**

2009–2010 First-Year Doctoral
 2010–2011 Second-Year Doctoral
 2011–2012 Comprehensive Exams
 2014–2015 Dissertation

Jibreel Delgado Trabal

2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams
 2025–2026 Proposal and Research

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
 2023–2026 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
 2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

Roberto Mata, PhD

2013–2014 Dissertation

Rebecca Mendoza

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
 2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
 2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

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



Kimberly Melgoza

2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

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**David Javier Bayardo**

2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral

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

2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

Julieta Sánchez

2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey**Jared Alcántara, PhD**

2011–2012 Comprehensive Exams

2012–2014 Dissertation

Claudia Marcela Álvarez Hurtado

2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral

2025–2026 Second-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

2024–2026 Dissertation

Stephen R. Di Trolio

2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral

2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams

2024–2025 Proposal and Research

2025–2026 Dissertation

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

2025–2026 Proposal and Research

Jonathan W. Campoverde

2025–2026 First-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

2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

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

2023–2026 Dissertation

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

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral

2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral

2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

Christina Llanes, PhD

2013–2014 First-Year Doctoral

2014–2015 Second-Year Doctoral

2015–2018 Comprehensive Exams

2018–2019 Proposal and Research

2019–2022 Dissertation

Vinicius Marinho, PhD

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

Izak Santana

2019–2020 First-Year Doctoral
2020–2021 Second-Year Doctoral
2021–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2025 Proposal and Research
2025–2026 Dissertation

Héctor M. Varela-Rios, PhD

2015–2016 First-Year Doctoral
2016–2017 Second-Year Doctoral
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams
2018–2019 Proposal and Research
2019–2021 Dissertation

Matthew Vega, PhD

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

Raúl Zagarra, 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
2025–2026 Dissertation

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
2025–2026 Proposal and Research

Amirah Orozco

2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams
2025–2026 Proposal and Research

Christopher Rios-Sueverkruebbe, PhD

2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral
2018–2019 Comprehensive Exams
2019–2020 Proposal and Research
2020–2021 Dissertation

Ariana Salazar

2014–2016 Second-Year Doctoral

Vanderbilt University, Tennessee**Arelis Benitez, PhD**

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

Isaac Borbon

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

Francisco J. García, Jr., PhD

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, PhD**

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
2023–2026 Dissertation

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

2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams

Katherine Guerrero

2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams
2024–2025 Proposal and Research
2025–2026 Dissertation

Jon-Paul Lapeña

2023–2024 Proposal and Research
2024–2025 Dissertation
2024–2026 Dissertation

David Enrique Miranda

2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral



To me, HTI represents more than just a group of LatinX colleagues, but an academic *familia*. Engaging in intellectual conversations with my colleagues at HTI has deepened my understanding of my work, encouraging me to approach it from multiple perspectives. This has allowed me to see my research not only through the lens of religious studies but also in its application beyond the walls of academia, particularly in my work on Latina mental health at *Becoming Mujeres*. This broader perspective has enriched my understanding and further shaped the relevance of my work across diverse contexts.

María del Socorro Castañeda, PhD

Founder

Becoming Mujeres

HTI MEMBER SCHOOLS





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, comprehensive examination year and/or proposal and research

- 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 for first, second, and comprehensive examination year scholars
- Editorial assistance for the academic year for students at proposal and research level
- \$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. 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.

* Funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc.

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 2025–2026 members of the HTI Member Council and Steering Committee for their dedication and service to the education of Latine scholars.

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Edwin David Aponte Dean of the Theological School Drew University

Council Members

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

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Dean of the School of Theology
Boston University

Jonathan Strom

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Emory University

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President
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Uriah Y. Kim

President and 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

Lee Butler, Jr.

President
Iliff School of Theology

Robin J. Steinke

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Luther Seminary

Linda E. Thomas

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Director of PhD in Spirituality Program
Oblate School of Theology

Roy L. Heller

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

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

Daniel Machiela

Director of Doctoral Program
Associate Professor
University of Notre Dame

Yolanda Pierce

Dean
Vanderbilt Divinity School

Marc Cortez

PhD Program Director and Knoedler Professor of Theology
Wheaton College

Marc Robinson

Dean of Humanities
Professor of Theater & Performance Studies and English
Yale University

Steering Committee Members

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

Heath Carter

Associate Professor of American Christianity and Director of PhD Studies
Princeton Theological Seminary

Felipe Hinojosa

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

Luis Rivera Rodríguez

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

Adriana Pilar Nieto

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



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 are 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.

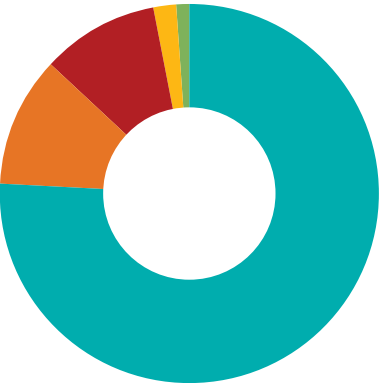


As a recipient of the dissertation year grant during the 1999–2000 academic year, I participated in the HTI writing and leadership workshops. These workshops nurtured me by providing great opportunities for developing my writing, networking, fellowship, and ecumenism skills all which have helped me over the years with publishing projects, various leadership positions including Academic Dean and President-Rector among others; and now working again at the international level as General Secretary for my religious order, the Society of the Divine Savior (Salvatorians) in Rome, Italy. I take great pride in having been awarded both the dissertation year grant and the 2007 HTI Book Prize, experiences that empowered me to support many individuals throughout my professional journey.

Raúl Gómez-Ruiz, PhD
General Secretary
Society of the Divine Savior

INCOME

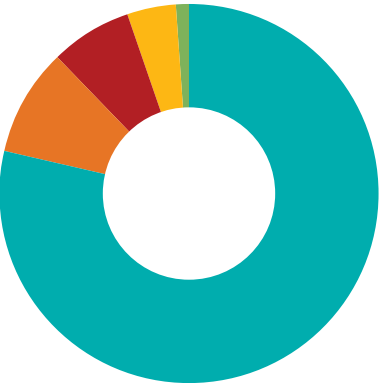
Total: \$5,580,359



- Lilly Endowment Inc. (76%) \$4,273,725
- Membership & Per Student Fees (11%) \$608,000
- Carry Over Balance (10%) \$589,828
- Princeton Theological Seminary (2%) \$100,000
- Alumni Giving (1%) \$8,806

EXPENSES

Total: \$2,245,809



- Scholar Support Expenses – Masters & Doctoral (78%) \$1,756,322
- Administrative Expenses (9%) \$204,690
- Operating Expenses (8%) \$167,766
- Public Square Expenses (4%) \$85,929
- Committee Expenses (1%) \$31,102

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

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Ángela M. Schoepf
Kathryn Smith
Theodore A. Smith Jr.
Elizabeth Tamez
Amaury Tañon-Santos
Alma D. Tinoco-Ruiz
Christopher D. Tirres
Theresa L. Torres
Lis Eda Valle-Ruiz
Héctor M. Varela Rios
Edwin Villafane
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Ruben Dupertuis
Thomas Vincent Flores
Barbara F. Flythe
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Evita Giron
Isabel González
Hortensia Cecilia González-Andrieu
Michael Remedios Grigoni
Francisco Herrera
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Jennie Lee Salas
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Daniel Schipani
Wanda Marie Sevey
Eric Sias
Noel Adam Snyder
Stephanie Mota Thurston
Emilie Maureen Townes
Efrain Velázquez
Eunice Villaneda-Bolanos

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 your scholarship and highlighting your accomplishments (Books, Lectures, Seminars) on HTI's social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, X)
- Opportunities to serve in a variety of HTI projects

HTI En Conjunto Association Members Since July 1, 2024:

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Amanda Bolaños	Francisco Garcia Jr.	Sophia Magallanes	Joanne Solis-Walker
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Adam Braun	Yara González-Justiniano	David Montealegre	Matthew Vega
Jonathan Calvillo	Joryán Hernández	Adriana Pilar Nieto	Horacio Vela III
Victor Carmona	Francisco Herrera	Michael Orellana Méndez	Aizaiah Yong
João Chaves	Ann Hidalgo	Amirah A. Orozco	Raúl E. Zegarra
María Teresa Dávila	Jacqueline Hidalgo	Santiago Piñón	

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	PSW Regional Liaison: Dr. Victor Carmona

Want to become an ECA member?

To join HTI *En Conjunto* Association visit <http://program.org> or email HTIEnConjunto.Associates@ptsem.edu.





JOIN HTI

HTI continues to grow a vibrant community of Latine scholars. This year we have **59** students from **20** 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 or ThD 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 2026 may compete for an HTI dissertation grant. Please contact the HTI staff for information in October.



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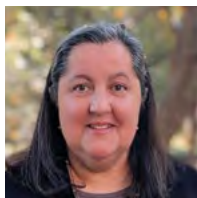
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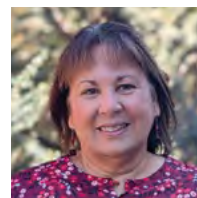
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