

The Power of *En Conjunto:*
A 30-Year Mosaic of Transformational Impact

Louisville Institute congratulates **the Hispanic Theological Initiative** on

30 Years

of cultivating scholarly leadership for the academy, the church, and the world – and strengthening Latine churches and communities.

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE

Louisville Institute

THE POWER OF *EN CONJUNTO*: A 30-YEAR MOSAIC OF TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE 2026–2027

HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE

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An original artistic interpretation by Lynette Santos, developed from an AI-generated mosaic concept and transformed through the artist's creative vision and original work.

¡Feliz cumpleaños y nuestros mejores deseos para los próximos 30 años!



Lilly Endowment Inc.

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For the 30th Anniversary of the Hispanic Theological Initiatve

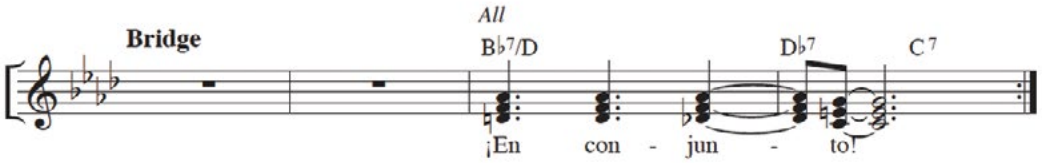
EN CONJUNTO
(POR UN MAÑANA MEJOR)

Tony Alonso



En conjunto en el camino de la justicia y el amor,
En conjunto en la lucha por un mañana mejor,
En conjunto en lo cotidiano, soñadores de una tierra nueva,
En conjunto por la liberación, una familia que se mueva. *(Refrain)*

En conjunto in the borderlands of culture, creed, and race,
En conjunto at the crossroads between time and between space,
En conjunto let us build a bridge to hope and wonder,
En conjunto let us walk into the future with each other. *(Refrain)*



Solo:

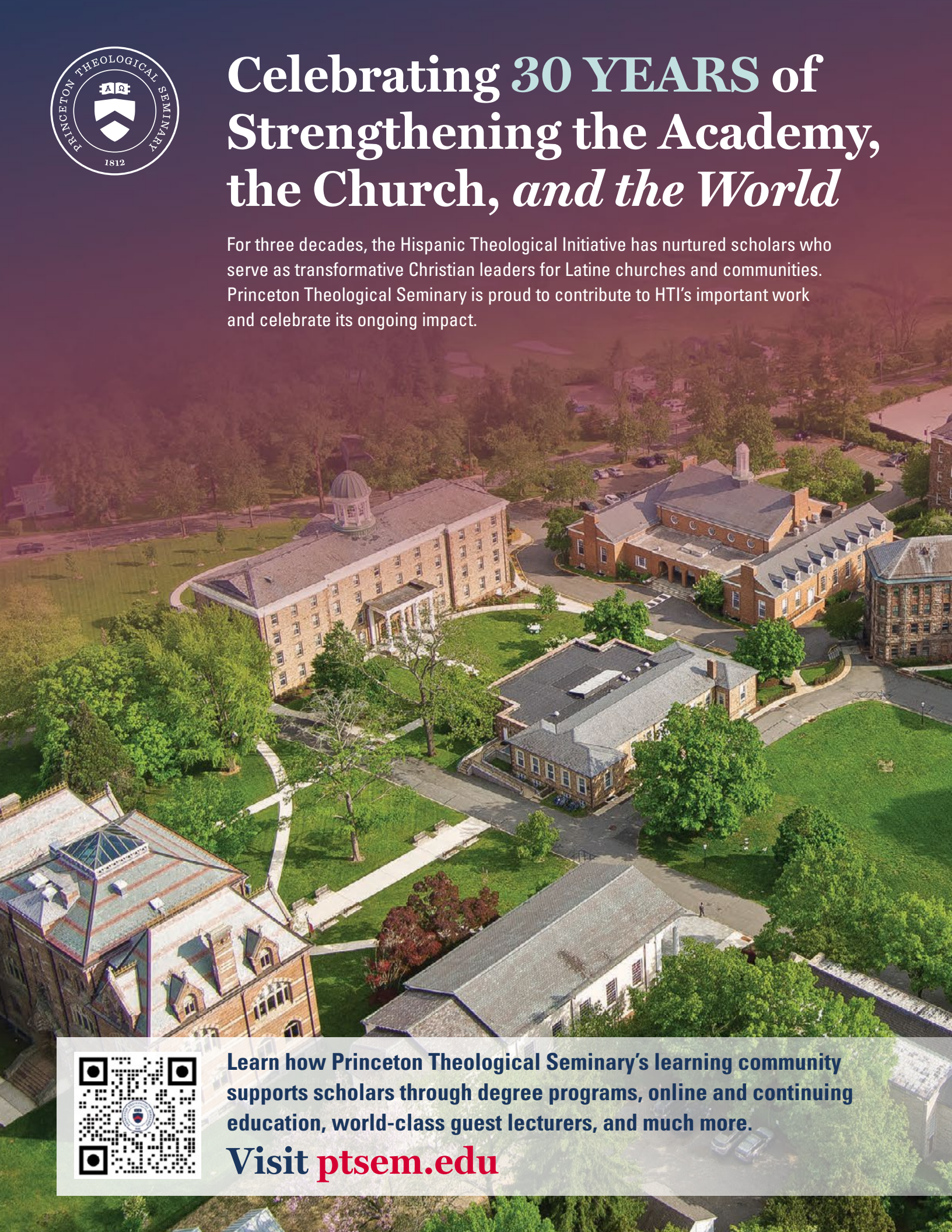
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Cuentistas costarricenses:
Compositores cubanos:
Chinchineros chilenos:
Diaconos dominicanos:
Estudiantes ecuatorianos:
Guerreros guatemaltecos:
Historiadoras hondureñas:
Mentores mexicanos:
Novelistas nicaragüenses:
Pastores panameños:
Profesores paraguayos:
Poetas peruanos:
Profetas puertorriqueñas:
Sembradoras salvadoreñas:
Universitarios uruguayos:
Visionarios venezolanos:
Ancestros de toda la tierra:
Un gran mosaico de treinta años:

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En Conjunto (***Por Un Mañana Mejor***) was composed by Dr. Tony Alonso, Aquinas Associate Professor of Theology and Culture and Director of Catholic Studies at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, an HTI alum, and a Latin Grammy-nominated composer of sacred music.

Celebrating 30 YEARS of Strengthening the Academy, the Church, *and the World*

For three decades, the Hispanic Theological Initiative has nurtured scholars who serve as transformative Christian leaders for Latine churches and communities. Princeton Theological Seminary is proud to contribute to HTI's important work and celebrate its ongoing impact.



Learn how Princeton Theological Seminary's learning community supports scholars through degree programs, online and continuing education, world-class guest lecturers, and much more.

Visit ptsem.edu

HTI

there were many who said it
could not be done, sobbing
days would never end, Latine
names recurrently deported
from the lists of higher education
possibility. in the infinite time
of dreams more than a few of
us gathered to repair the ruins,
dismantle the continual lessons
of heartbreak and the repudiation
of intellectual gifts. the important
thing after all is the shadows and
empty days have been set aside by
the accomplishments of men and
women flowered by the HTI who
carry messages from cultures with
words from darker brothers and sisters
delivering to a fatally divided world
holes letting in the light.

Dr. Harold J. Recinos, author of ***The Future is a Place*** (Wipf and Stock, 2026) and Professor of Church and Society at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University

The Association of Theological Schools

Congratulates

the

Hispanic Theological Initiative

on its 30th anniversary

For 30 years, HTI has demonstrated the power of *en conjunto* collaboration, cultivating doctoral scholars whose leadership strengthens theological education, the church,
and Hispanic and Latine communities.

ATS celebrates HTI's enduring impact and its commitment to:

- Recruiting, supporting, and graduating PhD students committed to serving Hispanic and Latine churches and communities.
- Expanding the presence of Hispanic and Latine faculty and leaders across theological schools and universities.
- Advancing scholarship, mentorship, and professional development in theological and religious education.
- Building collaborative networks that strengthen leadership and create opportunities for future generations.

30 Years of excellence, leadership, and vision.
¡Adelante!

HTI'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS

GOLD TESSERA—$5,000

Association of Theological Schools

Fuller Theological Seminary

Lilly Endowment Inc.

Louisville Institute

Princeton Theological Seminary

MARBLE TESSERA—$2,500

Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Forum for Theological Exploration

Iliff School of Theology

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Portman Endowment in Catholic Theology, University of San Diego

SMU Perkins School of Theology

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

GLASS TESSERA—$1,500

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

Boston University School of Theology

Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture (Indiana University)

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Hispanic Scholars Program

In Trust Center

Lexington Theological Seminary

Meadville Lombard Theological School

Trinity University

Westminster John Knox Press

STONE TESSERA—$1,000

Baylor University Press

Brite Divinity School

Collegeville Institute

Columbia Theological Seminary

Drew University School of Theology

Duke University Divinity School

Gammon Theological Seminary

Graduate Theological Union

McCormick Theological Seminary

Mexican American Catholic College

Texas Christian University (TCU)

Trinity Church NYC

Union Presbyterian Seminary

University of Dayton – International Marian Research Institute

FORMING LEADERS. BUILDING THE FUTURE.

For decades, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago has invested in the scholars and leaders shaping the future of the church.

As a founding member of the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI), LSTC has been part of a 30-year effort to support Latinx scholars pursuing doctoral education and expand their leadership throughout theological education and the church.



DR. ELYSSA SALINAS-LAZARSKI SHOWS WHAT THAT INVESTMENT CAN MAKE POSSIBLE.

An LSTC MDiv graduate and HTI fellowship recipient, Dr. Salinas-Lazarski went on to earn her PhD in Theology. Today, she has returned to LSTC as a faculty member and leader helping the seminary imagine what expansive, accessible theological education can become.

Now, through Kindred, an online faith-centered community, LSTC is building on that legacy.

Kindred creates new opportunities for relationship, listening, formation, and leadership alongside Latinx, African Descent, and queer communities. It reflects a conviction LSTC and HTI have shared for decades: when we invest in the gifts and wisdom already present in our communities, we strengthen the whole church.

Thirty years of partnership. A new generation of leaders. And we're just getting started.

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago × Kindred

Rooted in relationship. Growing toward the future.

HTI'S MISSION

HTI's mission is to cultivate PhD students for leadership positions in the academy, the church, and the world who will strengthen Latine churches and communities. With the support of the 21 Consortium member institutions, the mission and vision of HTI revolve around three major goals:

1. Increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of PhD students committed to strengthening Latine churches and communities across the nation by uniting and leveraging institutional resources (human, financial, and infrastructural).

2. Increase the presence of leaders and faculty–especially, tenured faculty in seminaries, schools of theology, and universities—who demonstrate commitment to strengthening Latine churches and communities through their engagement, expertise, and scholarship.

3. Provide a forum for exchange of information, ideas, and best practices to engage the contributions of faculty and students in theological and religious education who have the capacity and expertise to strengthen Latine churches and communities.

FTE

The Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) celebrates the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) for 30 years of dreaming, imagining, and building an inclusive future in theological education.

Congratulations, HTI, on three decades of impact on the academy and the leadership pipeline of developing Latine scholars. FTE is grateful for its partnership with HTI and acknowledges its enduring legacy.

FROM THE HTI STEERING COMMITTEE

While a finished artwork naturally draws admiration, the years of painstaking labor behind it are rarely recognized as part of the art itself.

This truth inspired HTI's 30th-anniversary theme: "The Power of ***En Conjunto***: A 30-Year Mosaic of Transformational Impact." The true masterpiece is not simply the mosaic created for this milestone celebration; it is the 30-year journey of bringing it together. It is the countless pieces, hands, relationships, commitments, and moments that have given it shape. The steadfast creation of this collective work—and its ongoing reach—is the masterpiece.

For three decades, the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) has been a work in formation. HTI's journey has traversed seasons of vibrant growth as well as periods of uncertainty—moments when the path forward was unclear and continued existence relied on steady leadership, sheer perseverance, and a community deeply committed to seeing the mission endure.

The beauty of this mosaic lies in its rich diversity, with each distinct tile enriching the whole. Scholars, mentors, faculty, member institutions, donors, partners, advocates, and friends have each shaped HTI through their time, expertise, resources, advocacy, and unwavering belief in our mission. Whether front and center or behind the scenes, every contribution has molded the community we celebrate today.

HTI could not have crafted this profound mosaic without the generous support of many—most notably the longstanding partnership and visionary support of the Lilly Endowment Inc.

This 30th-anniversary commemorative publication pairs traditional annual briefings with tributes from the allies and partners celebrating alongside us. The annual report highlights HTI's latest developments and accomplishments, while the tributes honor the many individuals and organizations whose support fortifies our communities' shared vision.

For the 2026–27 academic year, we are proud to welcome 56 scholars representing 21 member institutions. We also celebrate 18 newly conferred PhDs, marking another historic milestone in forming scholars and leaders who enrich the academy, the church, and broader society.

Over 30 years, these distinct elements have coalesced into something far greater than any single piece could achieve alone. The result is not merely an organization that has endured, but a thriving community that has grown, adapted, and continually transformed theological education.

As HTI celebrates this 30-year milestone, we look back with deep gratitude and forward with resolute hope. New scholars will bring new tiles. New mentors will expand HTI's reach. New partners will open fresh possibilities. Rising generations will add their own colors, experiences, and gifts to an ever-evolving work that remains vibrant and unfinished. The true beauty of this mosaic is found not only in what has been built, but in what we continue to create together, ***en conjunto***.

With heartfelt gratitude,

HTI Steering Committee

Edwin David Aponte (HTI Steering Committee Chair)
Mariana Alessandri
Heath W. Carter
Felipe Hinojosa
Adriana Nieto
Luis R. Rivera-Rodríguez
Tony Tian-Ren Lin
Milagros (Milly) Peña
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 at the doctoral 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 the present, the Rev. Dr. Joanne Rodríguez, executive director, has worked collaboratively with a variety of advisors, mentors, and editors.

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 21 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 trilingual 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 was 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 allowed 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 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 allowed 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 HTI celebrated its silver jubilee, HTI was awarded a $7.3 million grant from the 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 Latine population. Additionally, the Lilly Endowment Inc. approved a $500,000 communications grant to continue building HTI's communication platforms (***Open Plaza, Journeys,*** and ***Perspectivas***); and a second grant in the amount of $2.4 million for the renewal of Dissertation Fellowships.

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

HTI has been a home to me in many ways, primarily as a place where I have formed and nurtured meaningful relationships.

The HTI community has helped me become a better teacher, author, and scholar. I am grateful for the support I have received from the HTI and am forever indebted to the great cloud of witnesses who have ensured this organization's well-being.

João Chaves, PhD
Co-Director of the Baptist Scholars International Roundtable (BSIR)
Associate Professor of the History of Religion in the Américas
Baylor University

HTI AT A GLANCE

WHO ARE HTI SCHOLARS?



64.9%
Male

34.9%
Female

0.2%
Non-binary*



9 deans &
associate deans
2 presidents
In higher education



4 World Religions

24 Denominations

28% Ordained



128
Full-time educators

74
Leaders in administration, research, and ministry

WHAT HAS HTI ACHIEVED?



48 master's & 202 doctoral students supported

41%
are tenured

18%
are on tenured track



301 Published books by 94 HTI scholars

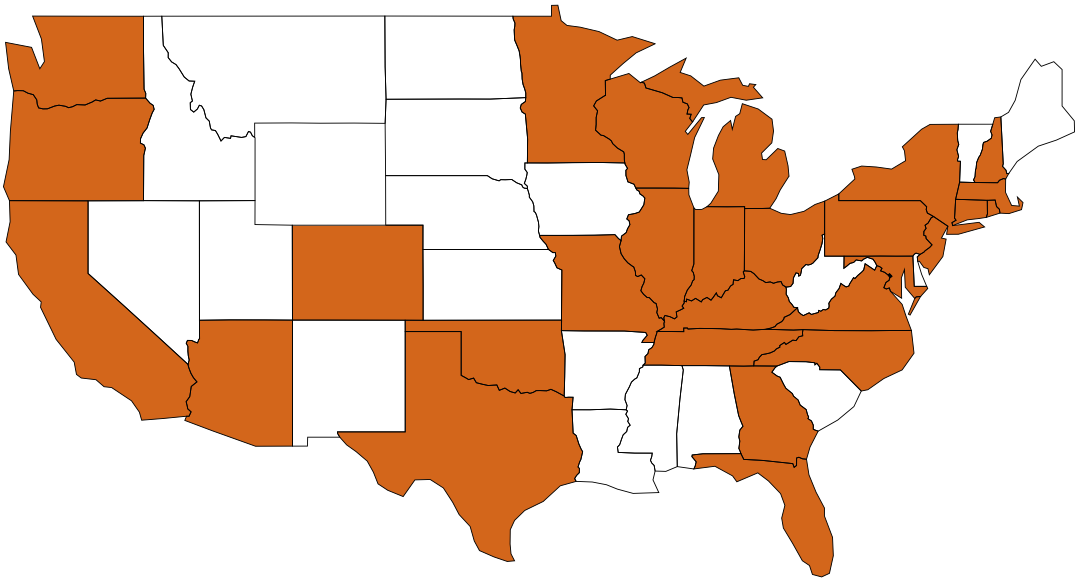
Assisted 10
post-doctoral scholars in the writing of their books (1997 to 2001)

Honored 19
Book Prize winners

**Gender categories reflect survey responses collected from 2024 to the present.*

WHERE ARE HTI GRADUATES SERVING?

4 continents & 10 countries





28 States and Puerto Rico

Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Costa Rica
Guatemala
Italy
Mexico
Pakistan
Taiwan

Academic institutions

Denominations

Congregations

Nonprofit organizations

Media/publishing organizations

Government agencies

Health organizations

Professional/educational organizations

Unlike other academic fellowships, HTI is truly *a familia*. You don't just network; you form lifelong friendships. You advise one another, support each other through the different stages of our careers, and connect each other's students to opportunities and networks that can open doors.

After 27 years as an HTI fellow, I can say that this sense of *familia* has strongly shaped who I have become. It has given me a community that extends far beyond academia—people who genuinely care about one another and want to see each other succeed.

María Del Socorro Castañeda, PhD
Co-founder and Chief Education Officer
Becoming Mujeres, California

HTI SCHOLARS 2026–2027

First-Year Doctoral Scholars

HTI has assigned a mentor to these scholars for the 2026–2027 academic year.



María Carolina Alderete

BS, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina / MAR, Drew University / PhD, Drew University (present)

María Carolina Alderete is pursuing her PhD in the Religion and Society program at Drew University Theological School and has served as president of the Latinx Caucus since Fall 2025. With seven years of experience in the grassroots and non-profit sector, Alderete has focused on developing communication and education projects to promote community engagement for social, environmental, and gender justice. Her intellectual and artistic work explores the intersection of body, territory, spirituality, and health in Latin America, challenging extractivist models and advocating for more just and relational approaches to climate action and women's health. Alderete is dedicated to creating inclusive, creative, and spiritual responses to the ongoing ecological crises driven by neoliberalism.



Elmer E. Amaya

MDiv, Wake Forest University / PhD, Emory University (present)

Elmer E. Amaya was born in El Salvador and raised in North Carolina. Amaya's practical and academic experiences have deeply shaped his vocation in ministry and scholarship among Latine/Hispanic and immigrant communities. He earned a Master of Divinity from Wake Forest University School of Divinity and completed Clinical Pastoral Education at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, where he served as a healthcare chaplain, accompanying patients and families through moments of crisis, grief, and healing. Amaya's research focuses on practical theology, pastoral care, and the ethics of care, with an emphasis on the lived faith and resilience of marginalized communities. He is committed to creating spaces of care, dignity, and justice through ministry, scholarship, and teaching.



Nehemiah Lebrón-Gómez

BA, University of Puerto Rico / MAR, Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico / ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary / PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary (present)

Nehemiah Lebrón-Gómez is a PhD candidate of History and Ecumenics/World Christianity. He taught courses in Theology, Ethics, and Contemporary Politics at Universidad del Sagrado Corazón in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Lebrón-Gómez is an ordained minister within his Pentecostal tradition. His research primarily explores Caribbean Pentecostalism's memory and history, secularization, neoliberalism, decolonial thought, and interculturality.



Anabella Martinez

BS, University of Texas in Dallas / MDiv, Baylor University / PhD, Southern Methodist University (present)

Anabella Martinez is a Dallas, Texas, native. Martinez's family, originally from Mexico, migrated to Huntington, Los Angeles, before coming to Texas. Martinez is passionate about the intersections of religion, culture, and aesthetics in relation to liberation, particularly within Chicanx and other minoritized contexts. Drawing from the rich Chicanx cultural producers such as Tomás Ybarra-Frausto and Amalia Mesa-Bains, her research focuses on how material culture beyond common sacred spaces or seemingly profane material culture can be sacralized and lead to spiritual liberation.

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Congratulations

TO THE

Hispanic Theological Initiative

ON 30 YEARS OF IMPACT.

For three decades, the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) has been a beacon of excellence and formation for Latine scholars, strengthening the life of the church, enriching the academy, and shaping public discourse across society. HTI's unwavering commitment to cultivating theological leadership has left an indelible mark on generations of scholars, congregations, and communities.

St. John's University is proud to celebrate this milestone, and especially proud that four members of our University community are among the scholars who have shaped, and been shaped by, HTI. Their scholarship and leadership reflect the very best of HTI's mission and legacy.

As HTI marks 30 years of impact, we join in celebrating its past achievements and look forward, with great anticipation, to the continued flourishing of its work in the years ahead.

Visit **stjohns.edu/ma-theology** for more information on St. John's University's M.A. in Theology program.



Teresa Delgado, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor of Theology and Religious Studies



Jeremy V. Cruz, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies



Robert J. Rivera, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies



Rev. Jean-Pierre Ruiz, S.T.D.
Professor of Theology and Religious Studies



Amy LeiLani Tobey

AA, Chemeketa Community College / BS, George Fox University / MBA, Marylhurst University / MDiv, Pacific School of Religion / MA, Pacific School of Religion / PhD, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (present)

Amy LeiLani Tobey is a native Oregonian of Mexican-American, Sicilian, and Western European descent. Raised between two cultures, Tobey gained a deep appreciation for her borderlands heritage when introduced to the works of Gloria Anzaldúa at Pacific School of Religion. She fell in love with the community of Latine scholars when she attended the Hispanic Scholars Program (HSP) in 2024. In 2025, she had the privilege of taking part in the Latinx Doctoral Accompaniment Seminar. As both a Queer Member in Discernment with the United Church of Christ and a trauma survivor, she is studying Pastoral Theology, Personality and Culture to stimulate resiliency and post-traumatic growth for LGBTQIA+ Christians who have experienced religious trauma and who are attending the UCC's Open and Affirming congregations. Her hope is to blend horror graphic novels and story work for use as a healing modality in her future clinical practice and utilize Christian mysticism as a pathway for post-traumatic growth.



Armando Vega Ortiz

BE, University of Puerto Rico / MAR, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico / ThM, Emory University / PhD, Vanderbilt University (present)

Armando Vega Ortiz was born and raised in Las Marías, Puerto Rico. Vega Ortiz's research examines how Latin American decolonial thought—and its understandings of power, authority, race, ethnicity, coloniality, sex, and identity—can inform the study of Second Temple literature in the Hebrew Bible. Drawing on Aníbal Quijano's concept of the colonial matrix of power, his project develops a decolonial reading of the Book of Daniel by tracing how power is contested within the colonizer/colonized binomial across the interconnected domains of collective authority, sex, subjectivity/intersubjectivity, and labor.

I call HTI a lifesaver amid an industry that can at times be overwhelming to navigate. It provided encounters and a space that allowed me to understand and cultivate my voice as a scholar and an educator. It fostered my sense of responsibility and relational care that nurtures my work.

Yara González-Justiniano, PhD
Assistant Professor of Religion, Psychology, and Culture
Vanderbilt University

SMU® Perkins School of Theology

CELEBRATING *30 years* OF THE HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE

Congratulations to the Hispanic Theological Initiative on **three decades** of expanding opportunities for Hispanic scholars and theological education.



Building the future of Hispanic theological education through:

- **MASTER OF DIVINITY IN SPANISH** – a fully Spanish-language, cohort-based degree program.
- **CASA (CENTRO DE ACOMPAÑAMIENTO, SOLIDARIDAD Y ADIESTRAMIENTO)** – preparing and equipping Hispanic lay leaders through education and support.
- **GLOBAL IMMERSION EXPERIENCES** in El Salvador, Cuba and the U.S.-Mexico border region.
- ***APUNTES*** – the first journal of Hispanic theological scholarship.

2026–2027 HTI SCHOLARS

Jon Campoverde
Anabella Martinez
Fernando Berwig Silva
Natalie Readnour

PERKINS FACULTY

Hugo Magallanes
Harold Recinos
Marcell Silva Steuernagel

Second-Year Doctoral Scholars

HTI has assigned a mentor to these scholars for the 2026–2027 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' W. 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 is a pastor-scholar whose work sits at the intersection of grassroots ecclesial praxis and Latine theologies. Originally from Costa Rica and of Peruvian descent, Canales Avellaneda has spent two decades pastoring within the Latine community of Los Angeles. He currently serves as the pastor of La Fuente Ministries, a bilingual, intercultural, and intergenerational congregation in Pasadena, CA. Building on his recent publication as co-author of Las Casas on Faithful Witness, Canales Avellaneda's current research investigates the constructive role of the Spirit as a Decolonial Healer within Latine ecclesial action and migrant justice organizing. By centering the lived experiences of his community as co-researchers, his work integrates Latine decolonial pneumatologies, biblical hermeneutics, and trauma studies. Ultimately, Canales Avellaneda seeks to resituate the Latine church in the United States as a site of struggle and public witness towards God's ***buen vivir*** for all of creation.



Lorenny Diaz

BA, New York University / MTS, Harvard Divinity School / PhD, Harvard University (present)

Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Lorenny Diaz is a PhD student in New Testament and Early Christianity at Harvard Kenneth C. Griffin Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, focusing on the representation of women (e.g., Mary the mother of Jesus and Perpetua) in early Christian material culture and literature, particularly in New Testament apocrypha and martyrdom narratives. Diaz is also interested in exploring the reception of these women in religion and media from antiquity to the present. Diaz is passionate about understanding how texts and images are transmitted and received, and how these processes shape social, cultural, and political life to create and strengthen group boundaries.







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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. Ferreira's 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. 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 Schwartz

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

Eve Schwartz was born and raised in Clearwater, Florida by a single mother and her grandmother. The first in her family to attend college, Schwartz focuses her research on the clerical abuse crisis in the Catholic Church, with particular attention to the experiences of young adult women victims and survivors. Her work examines how these experiences intersect with Catholic understandings of embodiment, ritual, and the sacrament of the Eucharist, seeking to give voice to those often overlooked in theological discourse. Through her research, she aims to widen the altar, making space for those who have been harmed by the church and finding ways to re-engage with the divine and divine practice.



USD Department of Theology and Religious Studies' HTI scholars celebrate 30 years of HTI! Left to right: Assistant Professor Matthew Vega, Professor Jacqueline Hidalgo, Associate Professor Peter Mena and Associate Professor Victor Carmona.

Felicidades to the Hispanic Theological Initiative on its 30th anniversary, on behalf of the entire Department of Theology and Religious Studies, together with the Portman Endowment in Catholic Theology at the University of San Diego.

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Third-Year Scholars (Comprehensive-Exam Year)

HTI has assigned a mentor to these scholars for the 2026–2027 academic year.



Claudia Marcela Alvarez Hurtado

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

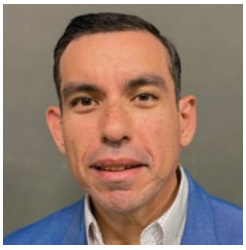
Claudia Marcela Alvarez Hurtado is originally from Colombia. Before moving to the United States, she pursued degrees in Sociology, Feminist and Gender Studies, and Cultural Studies. Alvarez Hurtado's involvement in LGBTIQ+ and reproductive justice activism made her passionate about faith-based communities 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 LGBTIQ+ churches and ministries from ten countries, including several Pentecostal-charismatic congregations. Based on this experience, her PhD project will ask how these churches are "queering" the Latin American Pentecostal religious movement while they search for their own ecclesial identity. Alvarez Hurtado wants to become a scholar and professor capable of bringing the richness of social science methods to the task of theologizing. She also looks forward to devoting her intellectual project to researching the concrete and innovative ways in which queer people in the Global South experience the Gospel.



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 Biblical studies from Vanguard University, Bamaca encountered the academic study of the New Testament, which broadened his focus and interests, leading him to pursue graduate studies. His research now bridges the ancient world and the present, focusing on the Gospel literature while 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. Moreover, as a first-generation college graduate and the son of immigrant parents, Bamaca is committed to serving the Latine migrant community by working toward accessible 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 and has worked within the University of the Incarnate Word Mission and Ministry department since 2019. Bayardo 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.

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Colton R. Bernasol
BA, Wheaton College / MTS, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary / PhD, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (present)

Colton Bernasol is based in Chicago, Illinois. Bernasol's 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 Pereira
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. Dos Anjos Pereira's 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. Martínez Benavides's 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, Miranda's research interests focus on the intersection between queer and mystical theologies in Christianity, especially from Latine perspectives. Prior to Yale, Miranda received his BA in Communication and Humanities from Villanova University, an MA in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) from Boston College. He has experience working in college campus ministry and graduate school admissions roles.



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, Rivera 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, Nunes de Oliveira Seabra 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 native of Mexico City. He aspires to serve as a scholar-missionary in theological education in Latin America. Uriegas is passionate about the historicity and language of the New Testament as they attest to the Lord Jesus Christ, and he seeks to explore avenues to improve the exegetical method in service to the church and her servant-leaders. His research interests include Greek language and linguistics, the exegetical method, the first-century world, epistolary conventions, and relevance theory. Uriegas's research languages include Biblical Hebrew, Biblical Greek, English, Spanish, French, and German.



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.

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 2026–2027 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, Baz-Garza went to Abilene Christian University to pursue a Youth and Family Ministry degree. While at Abilene, she fell in love with the academic study of the New Testament. Throughout the years, she has developed a strong interest in translation studies and how the various reception histories of the New Testament have contributed to harmful translations, specifically to historically minoritized people groups. She is interested in exploring how the reproductions, annotations, and overall display of New Testament manuscripts and patristic homilies provide us with still images of how communities interpreted the text. Her approach 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/Iliff School of Theology (present)

Kimberly Melgoza was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Melgoza began her undergraduate degree by pursuing the field of medicine with the hope 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 Chicana 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 is a co-coordinator of the Harvard University Native American and Indigenous Studies Working Group and 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 Foundation Predoctoral Fellow.



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. Montoya Cifuentes's 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.



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. Piazzetta 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 is a researcher whose work touches the profound intersections of logic, metaphysics, and religious experience. Originally from Mexico, Reyes Cárdenas is a PhD student in Christian Spirituality at the Oblate School of Theology and Honorary Researcher at the University of Sheffield. He holds a PhD from the University of Sheffield, where he developed a deep specialization in the pragmatist tradition, particularly the scholastic realism of Charles Sanders Peirce. He has published monographs and academic articles in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Distinctive in his approach, Reyes Cárdenas utilizes the philosophy of pragmatism—traditionally seen as a rigorous logical framework—as a robust foundation to ground spirituality. By applying Peircean semiotics and Josiah Royce's theory of community, he provides a philosophical structure for understanding the reality of spiritual life. As an Orthodox scholar, his research is deeply informed by the Eastern Christian tradition. He maintains a specific interest in Hesychast spirituality, exploring the theology of stillness (hesychia) through a scholarly lens. This unique synthesis allows him to bridge the gap between Western analytical rigor and the mystical depths of the Christian East, examining figures like Evagrius Ponticus or Meister Eckhart and the Desert Fathers alongside modern pragmatist thinkers. Beyond his teaching, he serves as the editor for Confluence: A Review of Intellectual History and Spirituality, further fostering the dialogue between historical intellectual traditions and contemporary spiritual inquiry.



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. Romero 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 Daniel Villalobos is a Chicano from Los Angeles, California, born to parents from Guadalajara, Mexico. Villalobos's 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. Villalobos has studied for several years in India and is trained in Hindi, Marwari, and Gujarati.

Congratulations to HTI for 30 years of supporting and accompanying Latine scholars.



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CHANGEMAKERS WANTED

Dissertation-Year Scholars

These scholars are writing their dissertations. Each will receive editorial assistance throughout the 2026–2027 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, Arakaky 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. Arakaky's 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.



Fernando Berwig Silva

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

Fernando Berwig Silva is a PhD candidate in Religion and Culture and a Brazilian composer. Currently, Berwig Silva teaches as adjunct faculty in the Musicology Department at the Meadows School of the Arts and serves on the committee for the Christian Congregational Music Conference, held biennially in Oxford, United Kingdom. His research brings church music into dialogue with decolonial and Latin American scholarship. His dissertation examines how the Contemporary Praise and Worship industry shapes Latin American worship, using liberation theology to explore the ways its practices both reinforce and disrupt liturgical coloniality.



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. Bolaños's paternal family is Guatemalan, and her maternal 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, a Cuban-American theologian and lay minister, has dedicated his life to pastoral ministry, liturgical music, and Hispanic/Latine theology. Born in Havana, Cuba, De Prada began his ministry as a youth minister and musician and immigrated to the United States in 2008. De Prada centers his research in the spiritual life among young Latine Catholics. His passion for pursuing doctoral studies stems from his sense of calling to work with young people. He hopes to continue working with Latine communities that support young people on their vocational journeys.



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. Delgado Trabal's 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.



Stephen R. Di Trolio

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

Stephen Di Trolio is a PhD Candidate in the Department of History and Ecumenics at Princeton Theological Seminary, specializing in Religion in the Americas. Di Trolio 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 20th century. Di Trolio is the recipient of the Lynn May Study grant, Julian Gwyn Essay Prize, the Louisville Doctoral Fellowship, and is the Jackson Scholar for Latin American Studies (BSIR Baylor University), among other awards. 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), and the upcoming biography of Pope Leo XIV. Di Trolio has completed coursework in the Sociology of Culture program at the ***Instituto de Altos Estudios Sociales*** at the ***Universidad Nacional de San Martín***, Argentina.



Damien Pascal Domenack

AA, Nashville State Community College / MDiv, Vanderbilt Divinity School / ThM, Vanderbilt Divinity School / PhD, Drew University (present)

Damien Pascal Domenack's scholarship explores Black and Brown queer and trans care ethics through sociopoetics, radical hospitality, and critical performance ethnography. Domenack's work centers embodied care within liberative collectivity, drawing on Latine lived religion, Black Atlantic religious traditions, and Indigenous spiritual praxis, where religion emerges as a generative site of meaning-making and communal survival. This research is informed by his service as a chaplain, a Santero priest, and a candidate for Unitarian Universalist ordination, through which he participates in the very practices of kinship and ritual survival he studies.



Leslie Garrote

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

A Minnesota native, with a South Carolinian mother and a Cuban father, Leslie Garrote has lived cross-culturally her entire life. After teaching in low-income schools for fifteen years, she entered seminary and then pursued doctoral studies, animated by a desire to equip church leaders and congregations to understand their own religious traditions and their social context. Her scholarship focuses on issues of race and gender in American Evangelicalism at the turn of the 21st century, specifically in parachurch networks. Garrote has served as an Editorial Intern with the Westminster John Knox Press and the Assistant Managing Editor for the Journal of Church and State.



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. López Griswold 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.



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, Hernández's 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. Hernández's 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. Ivens identifies as a 1.5-generation immigrant who lives in a constant tension of in-betweenness. She 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.



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. Leal's 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.



Paola Marquez-Leones

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

Paola Marquez-Leones is a PhD candidate in Religious Education with a concentration in Theological and Ethical Studies at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Marquez-Leones's dissertation examines how mestizaje shapes Afro-Latine and Afro-Latin American religious communities. Marquez-Leones is an ordained deacon in the Colombian Methodist Church and has served as the National Program Director and an educational consultant for the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA). Their research has been supported by the Hispanic Theological Initiative and United Women in Faith.



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. As an extrovert, people are part of her passion, and she hopes her work reflects that. Navarrete is interested in the Book of Psalms, literary and postcolonial theories, US Latine biblical interpretation, and the reception history of particular psalms found throughout Nahua indigenous communities in post-conquest Tenochtitlán.



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. Orozco is interested in Latin American liberation theologies, the decolonial turn in theology, and feminist theologies. Her dissertation is entitled "'The Great History of God': Ignacio Ellacuría's Theology of History and Epistemicide."



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 Palma's undergraduate studies, he traveled to Mexico regularly and became interested in how Pentecostalism contextualizes in Latin America. He continued his travels throughout Central America before settling in Uruguay in 2011. As a researcher, Palma aims to hear how Pentecostalism has grown in Latin America from the perspectives of local actors often overlooked in classical Pentecostal sources. 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 expansion by employing a World Christianity approach to Pentecostal historiography.



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

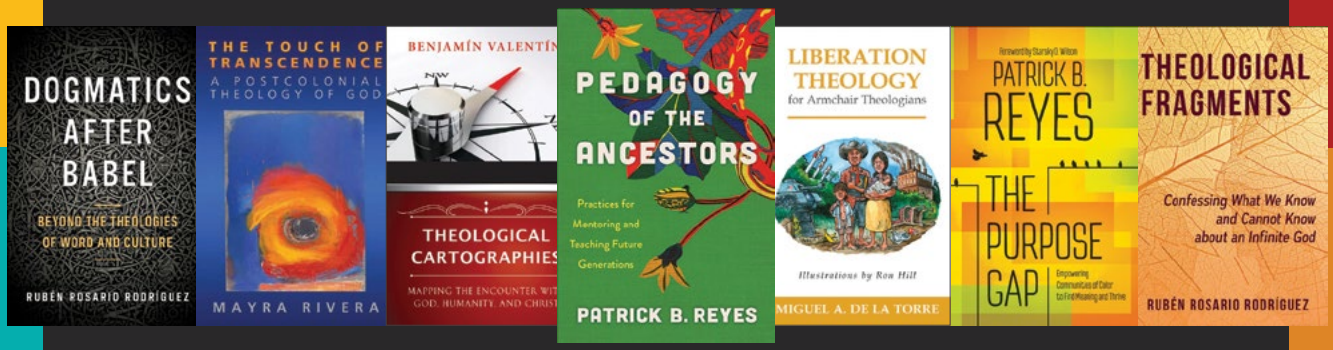
Natalie Readnour is a PhD student in Religion and Culture concerned with the Mexico-US border, motherhood, and Mexican American religious identity and practices. Currently, Readnour hopes to examine how mothering practices intersect with religious and cultural knowledge and practices among Mexican American women.



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.

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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.



KMarie Tejeda

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

KMarie Tejeda was born and raised in the Dominican Republic. Using an interdisciplinary approach, Tejeda's 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 is a PhD candidate in Theological Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary. Born in Salinas, California to a family of fieldworkers, Velarde researches what he calls "Kaleidoscopic Shalom"—a framework that refuses to treat colonial trauma as a deficit to repair, instead asking how broken fragments, held in community and turned toward the Spirit's light, become the very condition for beauty. His dissertation examines how Latine individuals in California navigate faith, spirituality, resistance, and collective trauma when engaging current US society and culture. Drawing on trauma neuroscience, liberation theology, decolonial pneumatology, and Constructivist Grounded Theory, his methodology treats ***testimonio*** not merely as data but as healing practice and cultural production—research that intervenes even as it inquires. A former college pastor and worship leader who knows institutional burnout from the inside, René is committed to scholarship that honors the epistemological wisdom carried in fieldworker bodies, immigrant prayers, and the ***sobrevivencia*** of communities who weren't supposed to survive. Velarde aims to serve as a bridge across the academy, the church, and business world, forming the next generation of Latine leaders to hold rigorous scholarship and embodied praxis in the same hand.

[HTI] has played a vital role in shaping my identity and career as a scholar and leader in theological education. As a member of the inaugural HTI cohort, I can say with absolute certainty that I could not have completed my doctoral dissertation and degree without HTI's timely intervention.

Because of the grounding, mentorship, and vision I received through HTI, I have had the profound honor of serving theological education in multiple roles—as a seminary professor, academic dean, granting agency executive, and executive dean. In every classroom, boardroom, and administrative office, the ethos of HTI has guided how I lead and how I advocate for mission, vocation, equity, and excellence in the academy.

Edwin David Aponte, PhD
James W. Pearsall Professor of Religion & Culture
Drew University



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. Villaneda-Bolaños' 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. Zamora 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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO HTI!

The Hispanic Scholars Program proudly marks the anniversary of our esteemed sister organization. Since its inception, HSP and HTI have collaborated to support students in theological education dedicated to Latine communities. We are grateful for this work en conjunto and celebrate the continued impact of the Hispanic Theological Initiative.



HISPANIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM www.hispanicscholarsprogram.org

HTI OPEN PLAZA

For centuries, the ***plaza*** has been a central feature of city life throughout Latin America. Originally designed for the purpose of military protection, the ***plaza mayor*** was often surrounded by cathedrals, government buildings, and other structures of cultural and political significance. 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 HTI'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.

As part of its ongoing renewal, *Open Plaza* has improved its search functionality, making it easier to explore its growing collection of resources by topic, author, and conversation. Currently housed within *Journeys*, HTI's newsletter, and shared through social media, *Open Plaza* offers enriching resources for personal development and pedagogical use.

Faculty-Led Team

Eric Barreto
Isabel Gonzalez
Jacqueline Hidalgo
Daniel Ramírez
Joanne Rodríguez
Santiago Slabodsky

Production Team

Isabel Gonzalez
David Rosario
Marta Lucía Vargas

¡Felicitaciones a HTI por 30 años empoderando a académicos y líderes latinos!



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The GTU congratulates the HTI for 30 years of vital support for Latine perspectives in graduate theological education.



GTU

The Department of Religion

CONGRATULATES THE HISPANIC THEOLOGICAL INITIATIVE (HTI) FOR ITS 30 YEARS OF SUPPORTING PHD SCHOLARS COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING LATINE CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES

Faculty with HTI affiliation:

Dr. Grace Vargas
Dr. Timothy Sandoval
Dr. Santiago Piñón

Felicidades, HTI

TCU

HTI PUBLICATIONS

PERSPECTIVAS

Perspectivas

perspectivasonline.com

Perspectivas is a peer-reviewed trilingual journal of HTI. 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:

Néstor Medina, Senior Editor
Socorro Castañeda, Associate Editor
Grace Vargas, Associate Editor
Theresa Yugar, Book Review Editor

Advisory Board:

Mayra Rivera
Felipe Hinojosa
Carmelo Santos
Ulrike Guthrie

Publisher:

Joanne Rodríguez, Executive Director, Hispanic Theological Initiative

Individuals who are interested in submitting their work 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 1,500 individuals across the country and abroad. The newsletter features updates on HTI graduates and current scholars, HTI Consortium members, announcements of new publications, employment and funding opportunities, and information about academic and church events.

To subscribe and to read current and past issues, visit ***hti.ptsem.edu/publications/journeys***.

Congratulations to HTI on 30 years of cultivating students for leadership in the academy and in the world.

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HTI ONLINE

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 the 21 HTI Consortium member institutions
- HTI graduates' profiles by field
- Current and past issues of the online quarterly newsletter, *Journeys*; annual brochures; *Perspectivas*
- Books written by HTI graduates
- Dissertation Series Collection
- Grant opportunities
- Information on HTI Programs
- And much more ...

HTI on Social Media

Follow HTI on social media for the latest happenings across the HTI community, including event announcements, updates from member institutions, new publications, employment opportunities, and academic and church events.

Explore exciting series featuring testimonials and reflections from current scholars and graduates, throwbacks that highlight HTI's history and community, and resources and practical tips for academic and professional development. Through these stories and updates, HTI's social media offers opportunities to stay connected, celebrate the community, and discover resources for continued learning and growth.

Scan here to quickly access HTI on Social Media

HTI DOCTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT SEMINAR

In August of 2022, the Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI), the Hispanic Summer Program, now Hispanic Scholars Program (HSP), and the Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA) jointly established the Doctoral Accompaniment Seminar (DAS).

The DAS program is designed to support senior level master's students through the process of applying for doctoral programs (PhD and ThD). Eligible applicants must be enrolled in an HTI or HSP member school or participate in HYLA programming.

DAS 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 DAS program helps ensure that students have the tools to navigate the PhD application process successfully.

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

**Course credits are typically granted but are subject to the agreement of the applicant's institution with the program's terms and conditions.*



HTI PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The annual Professional Development Conference (PDC) is a four-day in-person meeting that offers faculty-led courses in the following areas:

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

These courses are organized into five levels and focus on material relevant to a student's stage in their PhD program.

The PDC is designed to facilitate networking among scholars from different institutions, establish connections with faculty members, and provide opportunities for meetings with HTI mentors or editors. Additionally, the conference includes the Book Prize Banquet and Lecture.

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Felicidades to HTI for 30 trailblazing years!

HTI INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In 2018, with the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc., HTI launched the Internship Program, an initiative to strengthen the leadership capabilities of HTI Scholars. This remote program enables scholars to develop essential skills and knowledge in nonprofit environments while building partnerships that can significantly expand their professional networks. The collaborations formed through the program enhance participants' scholarship and discipline, opening doors to future employment opportunities.

Each internship allows the student to work remotely, and it provides a stipend for their work and travel funds. Additionally, a stipend is provided for the site supervisor.

Participant benefits:

- Develop leadership skills while working at Hispanic-serving nonprofits
- Enhance the ability of partnering institutions to achieve their missions
- Explore different leadership styles and learn effective problem-solving skills
- Acquire hands-on experience that can support their doctoral work
- Build connections with the communities they aim to serve
- Discover various roles within the nonprofit sector that they may not have previously considered
- Reduce student debt

Institutional Benefits:

- Receive additional support for their projects
- Discover new approaches to teaching, learning, and leadership

Hispanic-serving nonprofits interested in partnering with HTI and working with an HTI scholar can find more information at **htiprogram.org**.

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

Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana (AETH)

Association for Public Religion & Intellectual Life

Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA)

Christian Latina Leadership Institute (CLLI)

Convencíon 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, which is by invitation only, aims to equip recent PhD graduates with the practical skills and knowledge needed to navigate their institution and make meaningful contributions to its leadership.

The ECO program offers a series of workshops that provide graduates with tools and resources to help them:

- Better understand their institutions, reducing the time it takes to settle into their roles
- 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 participate in meetings
- Recognize the importance of self-care during major career transitions
- Write a tenure plan and establish a publication timeline over the next five years

LEADERS IN LEARNING

In 2021, HTI launched the Leaders in Learning (LIL) program with the generous support of the Lilly Endowment Inc. This program is by invitation only and focuses on offering scholars 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 leaders who possess advanced skills and leadership experience

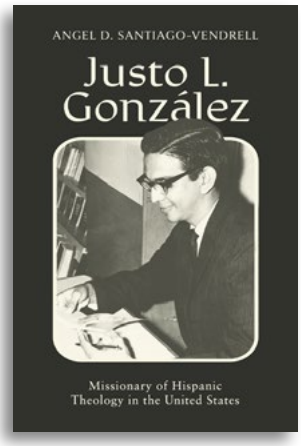
HTI BOOK PRIZE

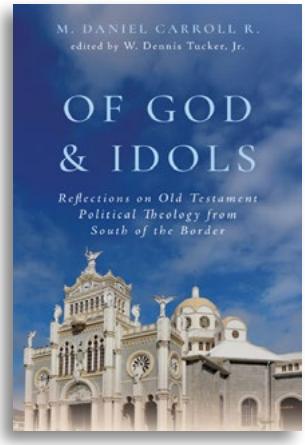
The Book Prize was established in 2002 to encourage junior scholars to publish their work in their field. Each year, this award recognizes and rewards the best book written by a junior scholar on theology and/or religion. The prize includes a monetary award and a guest lectureship at the annual Professional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

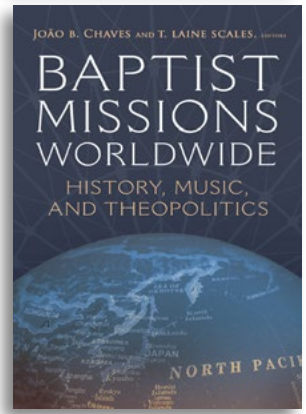
The goals of the Book Prize are to:

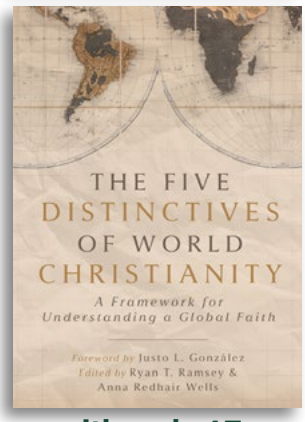
- Present models that inspire further contributions from scholars committed to strengthening Latine churches and communities
- Help junior scholars leverage tenure
- Annually recognize, reward, and publicize the best book a junior scholar authored in theology and/or religion
- Provide faculty with the best and most current books to consider for their required and recommended course bibliography

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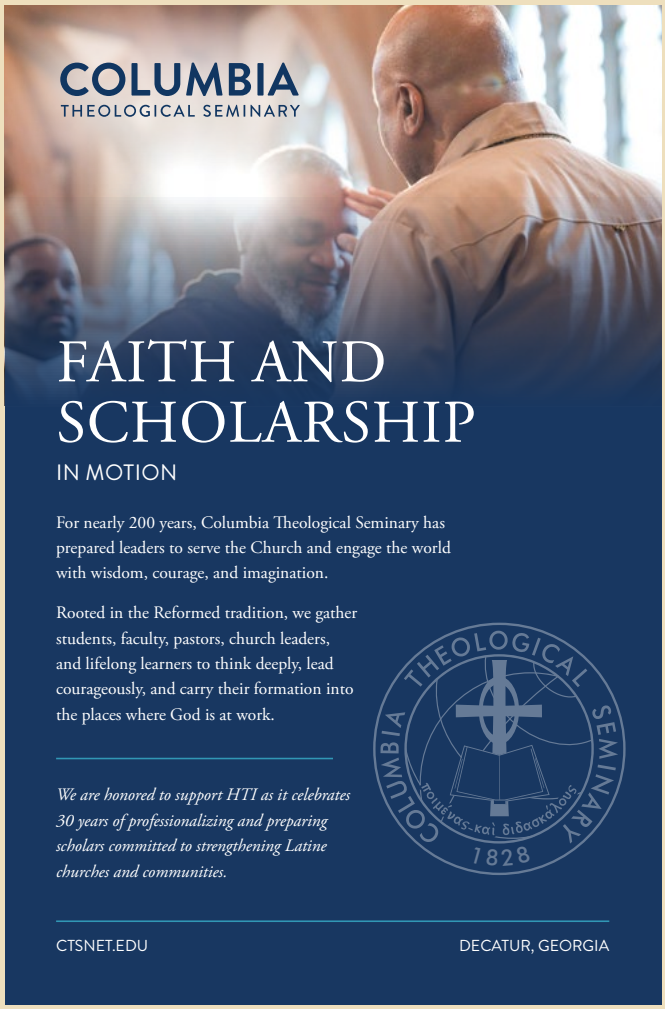








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by Dr. Barbara Andrea Sostaita

2023 *Insurrectionist Wisdoms: Toward a North American Indigenized Pastoral Theology*
by Dr. Marlene Mayra Ferreras

2022 *Migrational Religion: Context and Creativity in the Latinx Diaspora*
by Dr. João Chaves

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

2021 *Commodified Communion: Eucharist, Consumer Culture, and the Practice of Everyday Life*
by Dr. Antonio E. Alonso

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

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

2020 *In Place and Identity in the Lives of Antony, Paul, and Mary of Egypt: Desert as Borderland*
by Dr. Peter Anthony Mena

2019 *Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood*
by Dr. Patrick Reyes

2018 *Cain, Abel, and the Politics of God: An Agambenian reading of Genesis 4:1-16*
by Dr. Julian Andrés González Holguín

2012 *Mestizaje: (Re) Mapping Race, Culture, and Faith in Latino/a Catholicism*
by Dr. Néstor Medina

2011 *Divino Compañero: Toward a Hispanic Pentecostal Christology*
by Dr. Sammy Alfaro

2010 *Bearing the Weight of Salvation: The Soteriology of Ignacio Ellacuría*
by Dr. Michael E. Lee

2009 *From Patmos to the Barrio: Subverting Imperial Myths*
by Dr. David Sánchez

2008 *Mozarabs, Hispanics & The Cross*
by Dr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz

2005 *Latino Pentecostal Identity: Evangelical Faith, Self, and Society*
by Dr. Arlene Sánchez-Walsh

2004 *Sor Juana: Beauty and Justice in the Americas*
by Dr. Michelle González-Maldonado

2003 *Mapping Public Theology*
by Dr. Benjamin Valentín

2002 *On Being Human: U.S. Hispanic and Rahnerian Perspectives*
by Dr. Miguel Díaz

HTI Master's Graduates from 1997 to 2002

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

Rafael Acosta
Harvard Divinity School

Judy A. Armas López
Franciscan School of Theology

Diana Ávila (deceased)
Jesuit School of Theology

Maricarmen C. Castro
San Francisco Theological Seminary

César Cháves
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
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Maricarmen Laureano-Ortega
Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico

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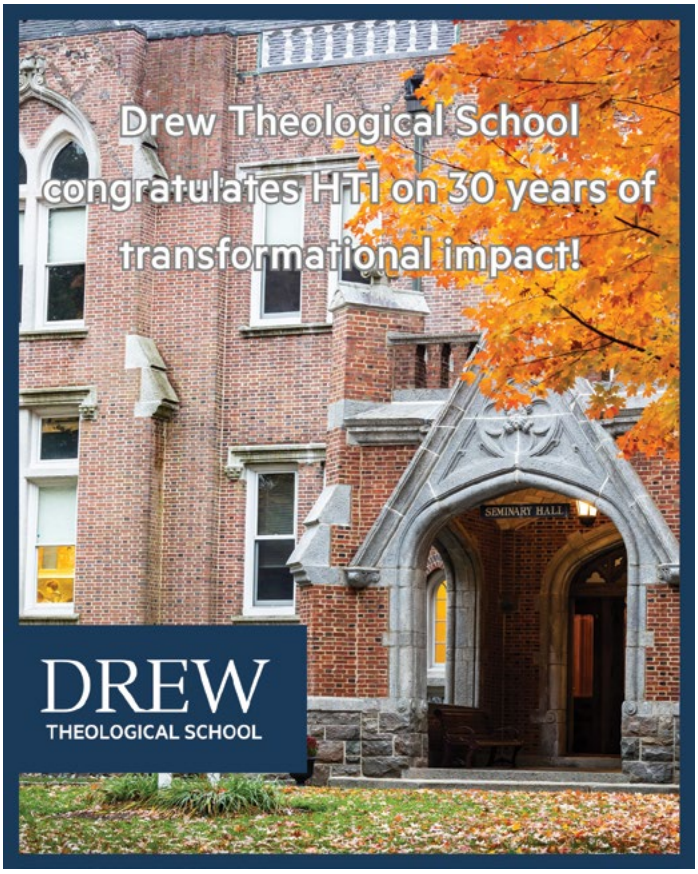
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2021–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Comprehensive Exams
2023–2024 Dissertation

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
2026–2027 Dissertation

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, PhD
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams
2024–2025 Proposal and Research
2025–2027 Dissertation

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

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

Nataly Lucía Romero Maita
2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams
2026–2027 Proposal and Research

KMarie Tejeda
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2025 Comprehensive Exams
2025–2026 Proposal and Research
2026–2027 Dissertation

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

Elmer Amaya
2026–2027 First-Year Doctoral

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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
2026–2027 Proposal and Research

Michelle Elizabeth Navarrete
2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams
2026–2027 Dissertation

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
2026–2027 Second-Year Doctoral

Breno Nunes de Oliveira Seabra
2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral
2026–2027 Comprehensive Exams

Eric Daniel Villalobos
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams
2026–2027 Proposal and Research

Claremont Graduate University, California

Jeffrey Bamaca
2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral
2026–2027 Comprehensive Exams

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

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

Thomas Evans
2017–2018 Comprehensive Exams

Stephanie Valeska Lopez Griswold
2020–2022 Second-Year Doctoral
2022–2024 Comprehensive Exams
2024–2025 Proposal and Research
2025–2027 Dissertation

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
2025–2027 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
2026–2027 Comprehensive Exams

Drew University, New Jersey

María Carolina Alderete
2026–2027 First-Year Doctoral

Gonzalo R. Alers, PhD
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
2026–2027 Dissertation

Fellipe dos Anjos
2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral
2026–2027 Comprehensive Exams

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
2026–2027 Comprehensive Exams

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

Kenia Vanessa Mendoza, PhD
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
2026–2027 Second-Year Doctoral

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

Yaheli Vargas-Ramos
2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral
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2026–2027 Comprehensive Exams

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2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
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2024–2025 Proposal and Research
2025–2027 Dissertation

Amanda Rachel Bolaños
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams
2025–2027 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

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
2026–2027 Second-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
2025–2027 Dissertation

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

Karla Stevenson
2020–2021 First-Year Doctoral
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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
2026–2027 Dissertation

Garrett–Evangelical Theological Seminary, Illinois

Colton Bernasol
2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral
2026–2027 Comprehensive Exams

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
2026–2027 Dissertation

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
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Emanuel Padilla, PhD
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral
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2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams
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2025–2026 Dissertation

Adriana Rivera
2022–2023 Second-Year Doctoral
2023–2025 Comprehensive Exams
2025–2026 Proposal and Research
2026–2027 Dissertation

Elyssa Salinas-Lazarski, PhD
2016–2017 First-Year Doctoral
2017–2018 Second-Year Doctoral
2018–2022 Comprehensive Exams
2022–2024 Dissertation

Amy LeiLani Tobey
2026–2027 First-Year Doctoral

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
2026–2027 Dissertation

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

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

Yohana Junker, PhD
2018–2019 Dissertation

Geoffrey Nelson-Blake, PhD
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

Lorenny Diaz
2026–2027 Second-Year Doctoral

Alfredo García Garza, PhD
2023–2025 Dissertation

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

Cristian Antoni Piazzetta
2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams
2026–2027 Proposal and Research

Roberto Mata, PhD
2013–2014 Dissertation

Rebecca Mendoza
2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams
2026–2027 Proposal and Research

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
2026–2027 Proposal and Research

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, PhD
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
2026–2027 Comprehensive Exams

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
2026–2027 Proposal and Research

Julieta Sánchez
2021–2022 First-Year Doctoral

Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey

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

Claudia Marcela Alvarez Hurtado
2024–2025 First-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral
2026–2027 Comprehensive Exams

Nehemiah Lebrón-Gómez
2026–2027 First-Year Doctoral

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

Guilherme Brasil de Souza, PhD
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
2025–2027 Dissertation

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

Chauncey 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
2026–2027 Dissertation

Jonathan W. Campoverde
2025-2026 First-Year Doctoral
2026–2027 Second-Year Doctoral

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

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

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

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

Chance Juliano, PhD
2021–2022 Proposal and Research
2022–2025 Dissertation

Anabella Martinez
2026–2027 First-Year Doctoral

Natalie Readnour
2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams
2026–2027 Dissertation

José L. Santana, PhD
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, PhD
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
2026–2027 Dissertation

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
2025–2027 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 Zegarra, PhD
2015–2016 Second-Year Doctoral
2016–2018 Comprehensive Exams
2018–2019 Proposal and Research
2019–2021 Dissertation

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

Juan Carlos Morales, PhD
2019–2021 Dissertation

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

University of Notre Dame, Indiana

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

Austin Mathew Cruz, PhD
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. Garcia Alayon, PhD
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
2026–2027 Dissertation

Amirah Orozco
2022–2023 First-Year Doctoral
2023–2024 Second-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Comprehensive Exams
2025–2026 Proposal and Research
2026–2027 Dissertation

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. Garcia, 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

Armando Vega
2026–2027 First-Year Doctoral

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
2023–2027 Dissertation

Yale University, Connecticut

Hannah Baz-Garza
2023–2024 First-Year Doctoral
2024–2025 Second-Year Doctoral
2025–2026 Comprehensive Exams
2026–2027 Proposal and Research

Katherine Guerrero
2023–2024 Comprehensive Exams
2024–2025 Proposal and Research
2025–2027 Dissertation

Jon-Paul Lapeña, PhD
2023–2024 Proposal and Research
2024–2026 Dissertation

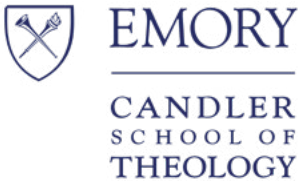
David Enrique Miranda
2025–2026 Second-Year Doctoral
2026–2027 Comprehensive Exams

HTI welcomed me into its community when I was a PhD student. I could not have known then how deeply that invitation would shape my life and work. HTI gave me a family of scholars who embody the community that Latino/a theologians describe as central to who we are. I am especially grateful for my mentor, Ana María Pineda, who showed me how to support and challenge students with care. Her example continues to guide me beyond the classroom and in my work as a college provost. Thank you, HTI, for welcoming me, investing in me, and teaching me the lasting value of lifting others up.

Michelle González Maldonado, PhD
Provost
Lebanon Valley College

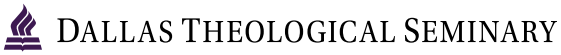
HTI MEMBER SCHOOLS











































HTI CONSORTIUM

The HTI *En Conjunto* Model is a best practice, award-winning, comprehensive, and holistic approach for supporting PhD scholars in religious and theological studies, committed to strengthening Latine churches and communities across the nation. 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 at the first-year, second-year, comprehensive examination, and/or proposal and research levels:

- 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 the 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 Writers' Retreats
- 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 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 (hard copy distributed to more than 600 individuals and institutions across the United States, and available online on the HTI website)
- *Journeys*, HTI's online newsletter (distributed to more than 1,000 individuals and 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, director, and/or associate director attend throughout the year
- Promotion at ACHTUS, AETH, HSP, and HYLA

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 of 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 2026–2027 members of the HTI Member Council and Steering Committee for their dedication and service to the education of PhD scholars.

Member Council & Steering Committee Chair

Edwin David Aponte
James W. Pearsall Professor of Religion & Culture, Drew University

Council Members

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Dean of the School of Theology
Boston University

Terrence L. Johnson
Mary Lee Hardin Willard Dean of
Candler School of Theology
Emory University

Lori Anne Ferrell
Dean, School of Arts & Humanities
Claremont Graduate University

Bishop Grant Hagiya
Co-President and Professor of
Leadership and Innovation
Claremont School of Theology

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Chair and Professor
of Theological Studies;
Director of PhD Studies
Dallas Theological Seminary

Meredith Hoxie Schol
Dean of the Theological School
Drew University

Edgardo Colón-Emeric
Dean and Ruth and A. Morris Williams,
Jr. Professor of Theology
and Christian Ministry
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Garrett-Evangelical Theological
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Performance Studies and English
Yale University

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Faculty Affiliate,
and Gender and Women's Studies
Faculty Affiliate
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University of California, Riverside

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

HTI SCHOLARS' SUPPORT

Under the aegis of the HTI Consortium, member schools model HTI's ***En Conjunto*** unique collaborative enterprise by economically, efficiently, and effectively increasing the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of PhD students committed to strengthening Latine churches and communities.

To become an HTI Scholar, a student must be enrolled by an HTI member institution. Once a student meets the eligibility criteria and the member school decides to enroll them as an HTI Scholar, the school submits the student's information through the HTI website. The enrollment period opens in November and closes on April 30.

Once the student is enrolled, the HTI staff will contact the student and request the completion of the student's online enrollment form on the HTI website.

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

- Participation in the annual Professional Development Conference, which offers 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 their institution
- At the Proposal & Research and Dissertation levels, assignment of an editor to provide proposal/dissertation editorial assistance, 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 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
- Access to up to $3,000 Capacity Building Funds Grant

HTI Scholars writing their dissertations also receive the following:

- Participation in two Writers' 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 PhD student a comprehensive and holistic approach to navigating their studies, while also preparing them to launch into successful and edifying leadership roles in the academy, the church, and society in general.



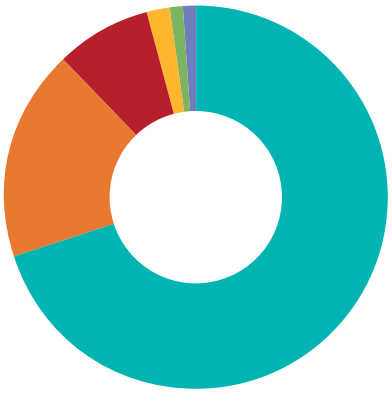
HTI strengthened my desire to be a Latinx historian, to think about the intersecting worlds of religion and culture, and to explore how ordinary people work to make extraordinary change in their neighborhoods, cities, and across borders.

More than anything, HTI provided me friendships. I've remained close with many of the scholars whom I first met years ago in Princeton as we were writing our dissertations and believing that our work would revolutionize the field. I'm grateful to be part of a blessed community of folks who are slowly, beautifully, and radically changing the world.

Felipe Hinojosa, PhD
Professor of History
John and Nancy Jackson Endowed Chair in Latin America
Director, Latin American Studies Program
Baylor University

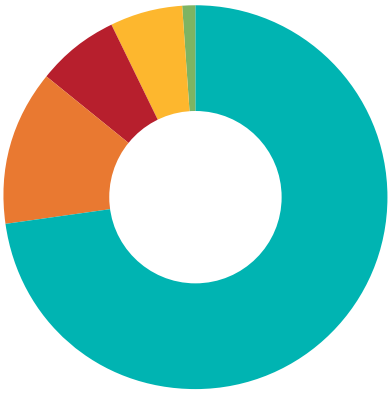
HTI BUDGET 2024–2025

INCOME
Total: $6,194,098



- Lilly Endowment Inc. (70%) $4,355,012
- Carry Over Balance (18%) $1,142,985
- Membership & Per Student Fees (8%) $523,200
- Princeton Theological Seminary (2%) $100,000
- Trinity Church Wall Street (1%) $62,632
- Alumni Giving (1%) $10,269

EXPENSES
Total: $2,487,319



- Scholar Support Expenses – Masters & Doctoral (73%) $1,805,480
- Public Square Expenses (13%) $317,280
- Operating Expenses (7%) $174,768
- Administrative Expenses (6%) $156,391
- Committee Expenses (1%) $33,400

Administrative Expenses

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

Income

Beginning July 1, 2023, the consortium fee structure was increased, and HTI commenced a programmed fundraising campaign to mitigate future financial uncertainties. Additionally, income 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 income is placed into reserve accounts, reinvested, 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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$1,000 – $4,999

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Beatrix Anne Weil
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< $100

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HTI *EN CONJUNTO* ASSOCIATION

The legacy of ***en conjunto*** leadership beckons HTI graduates and friends to advance its mission by creating the HTI ***En Conjunto*** Association. This association is intentional about uniting HTI graduates and its many co-leaders across the globe to improve the sharing of information and resources and to advance 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
- Promotion of your scholarship and highlighting your accomplishments (books, lectures, seminars) on HTI's social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)
- Opportunities to serve in a variety of HTI projects

HTI *En Conjunto* Association Members Since July 1, 2025:

Lizette Acosta
Victor Aloyo Jr.
Claudia Marcela Alvarez
Xochitl Alvizo
Jeffrey Bamaca
Santana Bartoldus
Arelis Benitez
Patricia Bonilla
Ruben David Bonilla-Ramos
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B Laboy
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KMarie Tejeda
Amy L. Tobey
Lis E. Valle
Héctor Varela Rios
Grace Vargas
Yaheli Vargas-Ramos
Efraín Velázquez II
Theresa A. Yugar

HTI *En Conjunto* Association Board Members:

Chair: Dr. Xochitl Alvizo
Vice-Chair: Dr. Arelis Benitez
Secretary: Dr. Héctor M. Varela-Rios
Treasurer: Dr. Elaine Penagos
NE Regional Liaison: Dr. Luis Menéndez-Antuña
NW Regional Liaison: Dr. Yohana Junker
PSW Regional Liaison: Dr. Victor Carmona

Want to become an ECA member?

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

More than anything, HTI is a network of relationships, collaboration, and accompaniment. It represents tremendous culture change within the academy. The long-term impacts of that culture change, which I expect HTI will continue to develop, are beyond my imagination. I do know that each of us who have been part of HTI, whether as a scholar, mentor, faculty, administrator, or staff, make it what it is. What HTI will be 30 years from now is being shaped right now, by each one of us. It is and will continue to be an outgrowth of our creativity, relationality, and communitarian spirit.

Xochitl Alvizo, PhD
Professor of Religious Studies
California State University, Northridge

JOIN HTI

HTI continues to grow a vibrant community of scholars. This year we have **56** students from **21** schools. We are grateful for all 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 Rev. Dr. 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. 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 30 of each year.

HTI Scholars who are All But Dissertation (ABD) by February 2027 may compete for an HTI dissertation grant. Please contact the HTI staff for information in November.

GIVE TO HTI

Your support is vital to the work and mission of HTI. You can give by visiting **htiprogram.org** and clicking **'GIVE'** at the top of the page. Contribute one time or set up a recurring gift.

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

Hispanic Theological Initiative
12 Library Place
Princeton, NJ 08540

HTI STAFF



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Executive Director
joanne.rodriguez@ptsem.edu



Ángela M. Schoepf
Director of Operations
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The Rev. Noreen Santos, MDiv
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Student Aides



José Guevara
MDiv Candidate



Isaiah Horne
MDiv Candidate



Sergio Rodriguez
MDiv Candidate

CONGRATULATIONS ON 30 YEARS!

Fuller Seminary celebrates the **Hispanic Theological Initiative's** legacy of collaboration, mentorship, and academic excellence in Hispanic and Latinx theological scholarship. We are grateful for your transformative impact on the church and academy, rejoice to support this impactful work, and look forward to a future of bold imagination and Spirit-led leadership together.



Fuller Seminary

Anchored in Scripture and empowered by the Spirit, we strive to be brave, compassionate, curious disciples delivering educational excellence deeply rooted at the intersection of spiritual, academic, intercultural, vocational, and emotional formation.

We come together to learn, worship, and serve as various people, cultures, and languages, diligently pursuing a Christ-centered, vibrant community that transforms students and learners into resilient, competent, contextual innovators.

We equip leaders who share Christ's hope and healing in the church and the world.

www.fuller.edu

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Hispanic Theological Initiative 30th Anniversary

2026–2027 Annual Brochure

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