BIOS - LACS PH.D. DEGREE CANDIDATES

Cassie Andrusz

Cassie is a 5th year Ph.D. Candidate. Researching forms of Latino/a/x resistance in the Capital Region to austerity measures since the 2008 financial crisis in the U.S., specifically state-sponsored practices that undermine access to healthy food to poor and marginalized communities. I seek to better understand how communities of color struggling with food insecurity are influenced by the state and its shifting role as both an ally and adversary in times of crises. Latino/a/x resistance to bias food programs at the local level offers a unique frame for capturing the complex ways in which the food system, state food programs and at times even non-profits produce and reproduce inequalities within marginalized sectors of society. Examining Latino/a/x resistance at the local level provides context to better understand responses to food insecurity via self-determination, solidarity and community empowerment.

Ildefonso Apelanz

"Mujeres Pioneras Con Gambetas: (en)gendering la historia del fútbol argentino" This dissertation topic brings forward the intersectionality of gender, sport, and history as a tool to (de)construct the historical male perspective of football in Argentina and therefore the invisibility of women in such sport; in order to ultimately (re)construct the hidden (hi)stories of women in football. This work connects the historical women’s pioneers of football to the contemporary women’s movements in Argentina. Because of their activism and visibility of “Las Pioneras del Futbol Femenino de Argentina” August 21st was declared the National Day of Women’s Football Players in Argentina (Día Nacional de la Futbolista). Further, these female athletes helped generate a critical (re)evaluation of gender issues in the sport, as well as the growing professionalization of women’s players in football. Thus, the National Women’s Football Day and the professionalization of the football league and its players are new gains in the area of women’s (football) rights.

Carmen E. Nieves

I received a bachelor’s degree in Education-Secondary Level Spanish from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, and the master’s degree in Spanish Linguistics from the State University of New York at Albany. My research interests include resistance to bilingualism, colonialism, and transnationality as components of the Puerto Rican identity. I also explore how education perpetuates colonialism by teaching the islanders to view themselves as American citizens rather than Puerto Ricans and/or Caribeñxs.
**Luis Javier Cintrón-Gutiérrez**
Ph.D. Student of Latin American Cultural Studies at SUNY - University at Albany. Prior to coming to Albany, he received a Master’s in Sociology from the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras. His current research focuses on Narco-culture, Marginality, and spaces in the Contemporary Transnational Hispanic Caribbean.

**Eric Macias**
Eric Macias is a doctoral student who studies undocumented, out-of-school or “pushed-out” Latinx youth in the Washington D.C. Metro Area. He is interested in youth politics, urban ethnography, critical race theory, political economy of urban education, the criminalization of youth, transnational and immigration issues, and youth activism. Eric has presented his work in progress at the Society for Latin America and Caribbean Anthropology and the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies.

**Gabe Sanchez**
My dissertation entitled “Crossing over Pachakuti: Decolonizing Narratives of Andean Borderlands,” looks at some of the potentials and obstacles of applying decolonial theory and frameworks to research on indigenous peoples in the Andes. I explore how these theories influence our understandings of (neo)colonization and ongoing struggles to resist market oriented globalization. I am also interested in topics of border thinking, feminist theory, Haitian history, and Latinx identity. My dissertation work is to decolonize knowledge by narrating from the Quechua concept of Packakuti. I consider this concept as part of a method of indigenous cosmologies and epistemologies in order to create a new narrative of coloniality. In addition, I attempt to work through some of the theoretical implications of using decolonial theory for research on colonization and globalization. This is part of a later intellectual movement from Latin America to identify and undo the Eurocentric logics embedded in our knowledge production systems.
Juan Vazquez Montero

My research focuses on the Geopolitics of Nationalist Revolutions. Utilizing a comparative analysis of Puerto Rico and Catalonia in a historical perspective, my research evaluates the links between local and foreign elites and their role in promoting or preventing nationalist revolutionary processes. While abundant scholarship has provided a political analysis of revolutions in connection with the dynamics leading to trigger them, the factors that have impeded revolutions from taking place or from implementing their intended changes remain as elusive areas. In order to find answers to these questions, my research evaluates the historical roles of local and foreign elites in Puerto Rico and Catalonia, as determinant actors in the anatomy of the revolutionary process as well as its dynamics, semiotics and final outcomes. (Keywords: Revolution, Nationalism, elite, foreign powers, Geopolitics, Puerto Rico, Catalonia)

Aminah Wallace

My dissertation is entitled: Dialogues of Resistance; U.S. and Panamanian Garveyism, the Negro World and the Making of Black Internationalism, 1910-1940. It looks at Garveyism’s contributions to black internationalism, from the standpoint of the Garvey Newspaper, The Negro World, and other important yet local black Newspapers with a particular focus on West Indians and the U.S. and Panama. I explore how discussions in the Negro World newspaper, the Garvey newspaper, and between the Negro World and other black newspapers were important to Garvey’s globalism. I also look at how African-Americans, West Indians, and Afro-Hispanics among others who migrated to different parts of the Americas and came into contact with one another thought life, business, leisure and past times, also pursued connected ideas of self-determination and empowerment both individually and collectively. I try to locate the beginnings of these connections between ideas and networks in the Garvey newspaper; exploring these peoples and ideas and if they characterized shifts to and a beginning for more global black politics.