**MEET LAIS GRAD STUDENT**

**THELMA PATNETT**

*Why do you believe it’s important to study Latin America?*

Studying Latin America serves to expand worldviews and understand the role this region has played globally, economically, and politically. It is important to acknowledge that Latin America is a region where diversity exists throughout its history, politics, culture, and traditions. It’s also notable to understand the great impacts and contributions this region, south of the US, has had on the world.

*What are you currently researching and why is it important to you?*

My research interest revolves around the act of resiliency. More specifically, I have chosen to investigate the history of the revolutionary movement in Nicaragua through the use of comparative historical and narrative analysis in order to further understand the motivation for which social uprising was sought out to demand social/political change in the latter 1970’s. In particular, I would like to emphasize the connections of gender and race within the Nicaraguan revolutionary movement and investigate the role of women, primarily of those of non-mestizo descent (Indigenous and Afro-Nicaraguan) and their struggle for social, political and racial justice. Women’s participation in the Nicaraguan revolution has been well documented in showing how women were very much a part of every aspect found within the revolutionary movement, yet women of non-mestizo descent have not been represented and visibly documented as participants in that historical struggle. My inquiry will lead me to then examine and produce findings that allow me to then understand what the social and political implications the revolution had on the non-mestizo population of women in Nicaragua and how it led into participating in collective action (if any). My research interest is born out of a desire that links me directly to Nicaragua. My family is from Nicaragua and migrated to the U.S. during the revolutionary war in the 1980's.

*What do you enjoy doing on your spare time?*

On my spare time, (wait who has spare time when you’re a Grad student?) well when I find the time, I do have hobbies that I enjoy doing. I like to go hiking up and down the trails of So. Cal, or taking a cross fit class, but my number one passion has to be dancing. I love all forms of dance and I’m always looking for new forms of dance to try out. I recently took a liking for Cuban styles of dance (salsa, guaguancó, Rumba) that was born out of my recent trip to Cuba over the summer.
the radical imagination

Favianna Rodriguez’s art and collaborative projects address migration, economic inequality, gender justice, and ecology. She aims to critique and reinterpret the larger discursive immigration narratives that are shaping people’s lives around the globe, but especially here in the United States. Her practice serves as a tool for education, agitation, and social critique. Favianna has self-identified as queer and Latina with Afro-Peruvian roots. Rodriguez began as a political poster designer in the 1990s in the struggle for racial justice in Oakland, California.

SPECIAL LECTURE: Tuesday, Jan 24 at 6 pm in the MCC Theatre.

ART OPENING RECEPTION: Tuesday, Jan 24 at 8 pm in the MCC Theatre, right after her lecture.

Film Screening

From director and educator Shakti Butler, comes a new film that asks America to talk about the causes and consequences of systemic inequity. Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity features moving stories from racial justice leaders, including Amer Ahmed (hip-hop activist, spoken word poet, diversity consultant and college administrator) and Michael Benitez (national social justice educator and activist-scholar). (English, 2014, 75 min)

Wednesday, Jan 18 at 6 pm in the MCC Theatre.

The Other Malecon

Monday, October 17, 2016 to Sunday, January 29, 2017

Photo display at UCSB Library

A photo essay by photo journalist John Paul Gallagher Gonzales about the people who live around El Malecon, the boardwalk area in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.
OFF – CAMPUS EVENTS

Los Angeles Mambo All-Star Orchestra was organized to preserve the traditional music of Big Band Latin Jazz and Big Band Latin Dance Music. This Orchestra performs Mambo, Latin Jazz, Afro-Cuban, Bolero, Salsa, Cumbia, Samba, Bossa, and much more. Headed by Musical Director: Bobby A Chavez Jr. With Special Guest Appearance by Candi Sosa from Havana, Cuba and Amalia from Guadalajara, Mexico
"Awesome" Vocalists of L.A.!! Come & meet new friends and Lots of Fun & Dancing!!

Byblos LA
1964 Westwood Blvd
Westwood, CA 90025
Sunday, January 29, 2017 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Price: $30

Corazón cocina
TACO TUESDAY
5 star YELP rating
38 W Victoria St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
“Right Turn”
Joshua Frens-String & Alejandro Velasco

“War and Democracy in Colombia”
Ross Eventon

“Oaxaqueños Confront Mexico’s Educational Reforms”
Deborah Poole & Gerardo Réñique

“Rio’s Olympic Hangover”
Brian Mier

“No, Honduras Isn’t Necessarily Getting Safer”
Dan Beeton & Rebecca Watts

“A New Agenda in U.S. Latin American Relations”
Linda Farthing, Christy Thornton, Alexander Main & Joseph Nevins

“European Visitors in Native Spaces: Using Paleography to Investigate Early Religious Dynamics in the New World”
Samson, Alice V. M., Cooper, Jago, Caamaño - Dones, Josue

“From Tula Chico to Chichén Itzá: Implications of the Epiclassic Sculpture of Tula for the Nature and Timing of Tula – Chichén Contact”
Jordan, Keith

“Paisajes Rituales y Políticos Paracas en El Valle de Chincha, Costa Sur del Perú”
Tantaleán, Henry

Pottery and Politics: Contextualising the Classic to Postclassic Transition in Champoton, Campeche
Ek, Jerald
Current Latin American News

“What The End Of 'Wet-Foot, Dry-Foot' Means For Cubans”
NPR Article & Interview Jan 14, 2017

The Obama administration has ended a program that let Cuban migrants enter the U.S. without visas. Scott Simon talks to Cuban author Carlos Eire, who was airlifted out of Cuba as a child in 1962.

http://www.npr.org/2017/01/14/509807177/what-the-end-of-wet-foot-dry-foot-means-for-cubans

“Castañeda Reminds The U.S. Of The Benefits Of A Friendly Southern Neighbor”
NPR Article & Interview Jan 10, 2017

Former Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castañeda says Mexico has the leverage to push back against President-elect Donald Trump’s plans regarding Mexican trade, immigration and a border wall.

“Venezuela Issues New Bank Notes Because of Hyperinflation”
NY TIMES Article Jan 16, 2017

The move, which has been surrounded by chaos for over a month, is meant to lighten the load for Venezuelans who must carry around bags of cash.


“Death Toll From Brazil Prison Riot Reaches 26; Decapitations Are Seen”
NY TIMES Article Jan 16, 2017

More than two dozen inmates were killed and many were mutilated, the authorities said. The country is reeling from a wave of bloody inmate violence.