MEET LAIS Graduate Student

Allen Magaña

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

My current research focuses on how queer social movements in Portugal form and respond to different issues, particularly on issues relating to the trans community in the past decade. While the Portuguese Government has been remarkably progressive in many respects, the Portuguese trans community continues to be pathologized by the state and marginalized within mainstream queer groups. I would like to trace how the movement for trans rights has also intersected with issues of migration and movements against austerity in the past decade and how mainstream queer organizations, such as ILGA Portugal, and more radical leftist queer groups, such as the Panteras Rosa, have approached these issues. As a person who identifies as queer, I take a personal interest in exploring how the international struggle for rights has taken shape in different cultural contexts. I am also interested in exploring how groups focused on LGBTQ rights can sometimes marginalize members within its coalition and exploring what consequences can manifest from this marginalization.

What do you find most difficult about your research?

At this point, the biggest challenge has been overcoming the physical distance from my research topic. This has created some difficulty with regards to finding activists and scholars in Portugal to discuss my research with. Fortunately, I’ve received great support from faculty in our department—Casey Walsh, Paul Amar, Jennifer Tyburczy—and I’m especially indebted to my dear friend and colleague, Pedro Craveiro, of the Spanish and Portuguese Department, who has been a great
help with connecting me with different resources in Portugal and giving me feedback on the work I’ve produced. Thanks to the guidance of these amazing scholars, I feel confident in approaching this research topic and contributing to the current debates on international queer rights.

**What do you wish other people knew about your research?**

While European countries have held themselves up as models of progress on social issues, it’s important to remember that many of these changes have only come recently and have been driven by the tireless efforts of activists. The coalitions that led the fight on same-sex marriage in Portugal made great strides in changing social attitudes, but the fight is far from over. I believe there’s a great deal to learn about the ways coalitions can be built across lines of marginalized identities, be they sexual, racial, economic, or cultural, and how these coalitions can drive an inclusive model for emancipatory politics. I believe this is the kind of model we can find with the last decade’s fight for trans rights in Portugal.

**ON - CAMPUS EVENTS**

**Rhiannon Giddens**  
*The Freedom Highway Tour*  
**THU, OCT 26 8:00 PM**  
**CAMPBELL HALL**  
*$25 - $38 : General Public*  
*$15 : UCSB Students*  
(Current student ID required)
Reading & Lecture / MCC Theater

Love is the core of Joy and our struggles for personal and global peace. Sharon Bridgforth will discuss the writing and performance elements that generate and reflect this Love by sharing her own artistic process in the development of her latest work—dat Black Mermaid Man Lady/Performance Installation. She will share video documentation, music, oracle readings and stories from the dat Black Mermaid Man Lady/Performance Installation development process - with the intention of invoking conversations on Living with Resilient Love.

Film Screening / MCC Theater

In 1979, James Baldwin wrote a letter to his literary agent describing his next project. The book was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and successive assassinations of three of his close friends—Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. In his incendiary new documentary, master filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished. The result is a radical, up-to-the-minute examination of race in America, using Baldwin’s original words and flood of rich archival material. 95 min.
Join Ballet Folklorio Alma de Mexico for a dance workshop featuring Mexican folkloric dance. Get ready to move and groove to traditional Mexican beats ahead of one of the most sacred holidays of the region, Dia de los Muertos. Children will also have the opportunity to learn about the cultural significance behind sugar skull face paint and have their face painted like a calavera for the day! Children of all ages welcome!

J.D. Vance “Hillbilly Elegy: A Culture in Crisis”

Author of the gripping memoir *Hillbilly Elegy*, J.D. Vance became “the voice of the Rust Belt” (*The Washington Post*) when his book exploded into the national political conversation during the last presidential election campaign. A proud product of Appalachia and Ohio, Vance made his way from the Marines to Yale Law School and into the Bay Area tech world. With a rare insider’s perspective from an often-forgotten corner of the country, Vance offers a powerful examination of how social policies and other factors affect some of the poorest communities in the U.S., providing a unique picture of the loss of the American dream and fascinating insight into how downward mobility really feels.

“A must-read prism into disaffection among America’s white working class and the rise of the new president.” *The Guardian* (U.K.)
Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago Exhibit

*Relational Undercurrents: Contemporary Art of the Caribbean Archipelago*, curated by Tatiana Flores, is MOLAA’s Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA exhibition. It is a major survey exhibition of twenty-first century art of the Caribbean that employs the archipelago as an analytical framework. The exhibition is divided into four thematic sections: *Conceptual Mappings, Perpetual Horizons, Landscape Ecologies and Representational Acts* and features over 80 artists with roots in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Curacao, Aruba, St. Maarten, St. Martin, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Trinidad, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Barbados, and St. Vincent whose works have informed and shaped those themes. The exhibition includes painting, installation art, sculpture, photography, video, and performance.

Día de los Muertos Altar Display and Art Exhibition

**On View:**
October 4, 2017 - November 19, 2017

**WHERE:**
MOOLA Galleries

**MORE INFO:**
(562) 437-1689

MOLAA’s *Día de los Muertos* Exhibition is a juried display of art and altars open to artists residing in Southern California. The art and altars are displayed to the public from October 4th through November 19th, 2017 in the MOLAA Education Gallery and are featured as a part of MOLAA’s *Día de los Muertos* curriculum.
“Do Not Miss SBWPC’s Cosmopolitics 2017: “A Seat at the Table: Stop Asking for Permission!”

Cosmopolitics is one of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee's most popular annual events. It sold out last year! This year Cosmopolitics 2017 is happening on Halloween Eve, and features Dr. Daisy Gonzales, PhD, the Principal Education Consultant for Higher Education and Jobs and Economic Development at the California State Assembly Appropriations Committee. Dr. Gonzales will consider why women often seek permission to achieve their goals and aspirations, and how to break that pattern of behavior. Join us at the Santa Barbara Club for her provocative talk is entitled “A Seat at the Table: Stop Asking for Permission!”

This is a non-partisan networking and celebration gathering for the community to promote feminist women's involvement in politics and governance. This paid and ticketed event includes a cocktail reception, savory appetizers and drinks, politics and awards. The featured speaker is Dr. Daisy Gonzales, PhD, the Principal Education Consultant for Higher Education and Jobs and Economic Development at the California State Assembly Appropriations Committee. Her talk title is: “A Seat at the Table: Stop Asking for Permission!” Ticket prices: $85 Member, $100 Non-Member, $50 Young Professionals, Students & Limited Income, Scholarships Available, $150 with Contribution to a Fund for a Feminist Future.

Media Contact: Catherine J. Swysen, President: T: (805) 689-6605 or (805) 962-4487; E: catherine@sbwpc.org; WEBSITE: www.sbwpc.org

Latest Latin American Studies Journals

Volume 49: Issue 4
November 2017

Some of the articles in this issue include:

Globalisation, the Terms of Trade, and Argentina’s Expansion in the Long Nineteenth Century, by JOSEPH A. FRANCIS

‘Civilising the Savage’: State-Building, Education and Huichol Autonomy in Revolutionary Mexico, 1920–40, by NATHANIEL MORRIS

https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-latin-american-studies
Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies
Volume 26, 2017

Some of the articles in this issue include:

The Conventillo, the Department Store, and the Cabaret: Navigating Urban Space and Social Class in Argentine Silent Cinema, 1916–1929
By: Juan Sebastian Ospina Leon

Straight Pins, Gauze, and Linotypes: The Cuban Post-Soviet Artists’ Book
By: Jessica Gordon-Burroughs

Latin American Perspectives
Issue #216 Sept. 1 2017 Volume 44-5

Some of the articles in this issue include:

The Political Impact of Chilean New Song in Exile, by: J. Patrice McSherry

The Guatemalan Campesino Movement and the Postconflict Neoliberal State, by: Simon Granovsky-Larsen

Coercive Inclusion in the Mexican War on Drugs: A Field Study of Human Rights and the State in Michoacán, by: Philipp Wolvesberger

Latin American Perspectives
Issue #217 Oct. 1 2017 Volume 44-6

Some of the articles in this issue include:

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in Latin America, by: Daniela Issa

Migrant Smuggling on Mexico’s Gulf Route: The Actors Involved, by: Simón Pedro Izcara Palacios

The Tip of the Iceberg: Media Coverage of “Slave Labor” in Argentina, by: Marina Kabat, Agustina Desalvo, Julia Egan
Survivors of Hurricane Maria desperately need aid

By Bethany Hines, CNN

Updated 12:33 PM ET, Mon October 23, 2017

A vast majority of the island is without power after Hurricane María, a powerful Category 4 storm, struck on September 20.

Food is scarce, and fuel is running short. Dozens are dead.

Damaged infrastructure and red tape are limiting aid distribution.

"Puerto Rico is part of the United States, and we need to take swift action," Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said. "This is a major disaster."

Maria carved a destructive path through the Caribbean just days after Hurricane Irma plowed through the same region.

The independent island of Dominica is in ruins, and the US Virgin Islands are also dealing with massive damage.

Aid organizations are trying to respond to these new challenges; some are combining relief efforts for María and Irma.

St. Thomas University in Miami is offering free housing and meal plans for those affected by the recent hurricanes.
Facebook has activated its safety check-in page for survivors to check in with their families and become part of the community discussion.

There are several ways you can help:

**Donate money:** Find out more about charities aiding Hurricane Maria victims by clicking on the button below:

[Donate money]

**Give your time:** Puerto Rico will also need volunteers. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster can help [match you with groups] on the ground that are responding.

**Drop-offs for needed supplies:** A Google spreadsheet with a list of places to [drop off supplies has been created](http://www.cnn.com/2017/09/21/world/iyw-help-victims-of-hurricane-maria/index.html)

**Nearest drop off location for SB students is:** Mofongos Restaurant 5757 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood CA 91601

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**Venezuelan opposition denounces results of first major vote since violent election**

By Kelly McCleary, Mariano Castillo and Stefano Pozzebon, CNN
Updated 3:06 AM ET, Mon October 16, 2017

Venezuela's political opposition denounced the results of Sunday's regional elections, after President Nicolas Máduro claimed victory.

The regional elections held Sunday had 23 gubernatorial seats up for grabs. It was the first major election since July's controversial and deadly vote for a constituent assembly, and is also the country's first contested election since December of 2015.

With 95.8% of the votes counted, Venezuela's National Electoral Council said that Máduro's party was favored in 17 states and the opposition coalition Mesa de la Unidad Democrática (MUD) in five. The outcome in the remaining state was not yet clear, it said in a statement.
Máduro called Sunday's vote "a success for Venezuela and the revolutionary democracy, for the socialist democracy."

But opposition politician Gerardo Blyde early Monday demanded a complete audit on all of Sunday's results.

Blyde, a campaign coordinator of the opposition coalition MUD, has called for street protests later Monday.

Before the vote, government loyalists held all but three governorships, but observers had said there was a chance for the opposition to make gains.

"If the vote were to be completely free and fair, the (opposition) would likely win between 18 and 21 states," according to a pre-election analysis by the Eurasia Group, a political risk research and consulting firm.

In the lead-up to election day, the opposition accused electoral authorities of making the ballots confusing and moving polling locations in opposition strongholds in an effort to boost pro-government candidates.

The US State Department condemned Venezuela's National Electoral Council last week, saying its actions call into question "the fairness of the electoral process."

The Venezuelan Electoral Council called the US statement an "aggression perpetrated against our sovereignty," and said changes were made for security reasons.

Concerns that the Electoral Council's changes would sow confusion appeared to have come to fruition Sunday, with many voters unsure about where they were supposed to vote. Long, slow-moving lines greeted voters at polling stations.

Ludmilla Velez Lascar said she was determined to cast her ballot despite her polling location being changed. "Maybe they don't want my vote," Velez Lascar said. "But we have to vote. We have to elect ... our governors."

Venezuelans headed to the polls Sunday less than three months since the last major vote, when violent clashes erupted between protesters and police, leaving at least six people dead. More than 120 people were killed in months of protest leading up to that vote, the Venezuelan attorney general's office said.

The vote allowed Máduro to establish a new constitution called the Constituent Assembly, which was stacked with his supporters. It replaced the National Assembly, which had been controlled by Maduro's opponents.

The new Constituent Assembly gave Máduro the power to rewrite Venezuela's constitution.

In wake of the election, London-based Smartmatic -- which provided the voting technology -- said turnout figures were manipulated.

The US Treasury Department called the July election "illegitimate" and slapped new sanctions on Maduro.

For any events or news submissions please contact: Julissa Peña at julissapena@umail.ucsb.edu