Southwest Studies Blockly Newsletter

Block 1, 2025

A DIRECTOR'S WELCOME.....

Welcome back to the 25'-26' academic year! I extend my deepest gratitude to our outgoing director, Dr. Santiago Guerra, for his passion and dedication to our program's success. Thanks to his vision over the past five years, our program now offers a Chicanx/Latinx minor, and Community/Contingent Scholar grants, alongside excellent programming that highlights the significant research, artistic practices, and community building being done on Southwest-related topics. The Hulbert Center and our Southwest Studies academic program cannot run without our amazing staff: Buzz Katsev (Admin), Daisy Gomez Rivera (Paraprofessional), and Oziel Cime (work study). I am grateful for the time and energy they put into our center and program and look forward to working with them on our upcoming events and projects. We also welcome back our colleague, Dr. Eric Perramond, who was on a year-long sabbatical last year. During that time, he was finalizing a translation project, Introducción a la Ecología Política: la emergencia de una forma particular de analizar las disputas ambientales, conducting research for a new project (ask him about it when you see him!), and running. We're looking forward to having a full house in the Hulbert Center this year.

We have an exciting year of programming planned. We kicked off the year with an Aficionados lecture by community scholar, Trent Segura, and his colleague, Adrienne Garbini, who shared their work with The San Luis Valley Colcha Embroidery Project. This year's programming is emblematic of the types of interdisciplinary crossroads that define Southwest Studies, and includes film screenings, poetry readings, research talks, and dance performances.

Our students will have the opportunity to take courses across a wide range of Southwest topics including ecology, water, dance, literature, ritual & medicine, museums, cultural landscapes, art, feminism, border and borderlands, cannabis culture, environmental justice, ornithology, culture & sovereignty, and archives, among others.

I look forward to serving as Director of the Hulbert Center and of the Southwest Studies academic program, and I look forward to seeing you all!

Karen Roybal
Director of the Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 27th: Evening Performance: Stories from Home - Yvonne Montoya & Safos Dance. @7:30 pm, Kathryn Mohrman Theatre

November 6th-8th: Afternoon Film Screening of Napak, a Documentary Created By CC Alums, and a Discussion with Professor Jessica Sánchez Flores (Spanish & Portuguese) and Coahuiltecan Language Program Elders

December 10th: Afternoon Poetry Reading: Ire'ne Lara Silva @6 pm, Max Kade Theatre

STORIES FROM HOME

The Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies invites you to join us for the Stories From Home Performance!

Stories from Home is a series of dances embodying the oral traditions of Nuevomexicano communities in the American Southwest. Choreographer Yvonne Montoya and a primarily Mexican American cast of dancers draw upon personal histories as well as ancestral knowledge, including stories from Montoya's great-grandmother, grandmother, great-aunts, and father. With palpable theatricality, moving spoken word, a movement aesthetic informed by vibrant ancestral and contemporary sources, and universal themes of love, family, and home, Stories from Home brings these largely underrepresented experiences to the stage.

When: Sept 27th from 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Where: Kathryn Mohrman Theatre in Armstrong

Safos DANCE THEATRE

GET TICKETS:
tinyurl.com/CCstoriesfromhome

With support from:

THE HULBERT CENTER for SOUTHWEST STUDIES

N|A|L|A|C national association of latino arts and cultures

Cultural Attractions Fund

NEH Professorship

IEB Institutional Equity & Belonging Colorado College

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE NETWORK

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov

nefa NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

BLOCK 1 AFICIONADOS LECTURE

"Cultural Repair: The San Luis Valley Colcha Embroidery Project"

PRESENTED BY: Trent Segura and Adrienne Garbini

Adrienne Garbini and Trent Segura gave a presentation on the San Luis Valley Colcha Embroidery Project, a cultural preservation initiative dedicated to the unique textile practice that came to Colorado's San Luis Valley from Northern New Mexico in the 19th Century. Colcha embroidery in the region has been shaped by revival movements into a pictorial art that often illustrates local architecture, landscapes, community traditions, personal narratives, and folklore. The San Luis Valley Colcha Embroidery Project supports artists to teach and tend to vital community connections while celebrating cultural traditions. Learn more at slvcolchaembroidery.org.



Adrienne Garbini is an artist, writer, curator, researcher, and organizer living in Saguache, Colorado. She is the Executive Director of NOON Organization, a San Luis Valley cultural preservation and educational resources nonprofit. She is a coordinator of the San Luis Valley Colcha Embroidery Project and an organizer of The Range, an art space in Saguache.



Trent Segura is an artist, researcher, and writer based in Denver and Saguache, Colorado. Trent is the Programs Manager of NOON Organization and coordinates the San Luis Valley Colcha Embroidery Project. Trent came to colcha embroidery through his great aunt Tiva Trujillo who lived and worked in Saguache. He is a member of the contemporary art collective M12 Studio.

DR. GUERRA'S DEPARTMENT COACHING

In August 2021, I began a position as an Instructional Coach through Colorado College's Crown Center for Teaching, alongside my Southwest Studies colleagues Dr. Karen Roybal and Dr. Eric Perramond. As a program strongly committed to the craft of teaching it was not surprising that our faculty had 100 percent participation in the program. The following year (2022), I joined my colleague Dr. Tina Valtierra as one of two Lead Instructional Coaches, collaborating to direct the program and envision new possibilities and practices of the program. This past academic year, I piloted a new Departmental Coaching Program in partnership with Colorado College's Department of Physics, alongside a group of faculty colleagues that was interested in and committed to engaging in more inclusive and place-based teaching practices. As part of this process, the faculty has engaged in piloting teaching practices that highlights the role of the Southwest region (particularly Los Alamos National Laboratory) in the process of atomic knowledge production. This initial effort demonstrates that place-based teaching is possible across the college regardless of discipline. This year we'll see this process at work as our colleague Dr. Chris Monahan offers a CC100 course focused on The Nuclear Physics of the Southwest, and as we feature the book Nuclear Nuevo Mexico by Dr. Myrriah Gomez through the Antiracist Book Club as part of the Sense of Place Initiative of the Office of Institutional Equity and Belonging.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Marisa Bonacquisti

Marisa was invited to be a student panelist as part of the 2025 Summer Institute- AZTLÁN FUTURES: Generational Healing through Art & Storytelling hosted by CSU Pueblo. As a student panelist, Marisa shared her thesis research on Chicanx murals. Dr. Guerra and Dr. Roybal also attended the Summer Institute to support our alum as she continues her important work.



Ev Baher-Murphy

With the Support of the Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies, alongside contributions from the Utah Rivers Council and Colorado River and Trail Expeditions, Ev has successfully created, produced, and narrated an engaging six-part audio documentary titled "Lifeblood." This compelling work is available for listening on platforms such as Spotify and Apple Podcasts.



Southwest Studies Blockly Newsletter

Block 2, 2025

Stories From Home: Yvonne Montoya
Saturday September 22nd @7:30pm
Katherine Mohrman Theatre in Armstrong

The Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies is excited to bring Stories from Home to Colorado College on Saturday, September 27th. I (Daisy) had the opportunity to speak to Yvonne about Stories from Home to give people a sneak peek of what to expect!

Yvonne shared that the main purpose of Stories from Home was to share her family stories with her son. She does this by "using the language that I love, which is dance." The larger purpose is to share the histories, stories, and aesthetics of the southwest with a larger audience nationally. "In my experience the histories and the stories of the southwest aren't well known, and I think it's important for those of us that are from here and have deep roots in the region to share our stories in our own words and as many forms as possible, so this is my form."

Yvonne shared why community participation is important when traveling on tour. "We want this to be a conversation, so I get the opportunity to share my stories from home with the community that I've been invited into, but we also want to hear from the communities that are inviting us and what their stories are. It's very interesting to me to see a lot of the parallels and ways in which different communities are similar so we can see the humanity in each other as we exchange on this level, and it was movement and words and stories. So that's why that part of the process and having the community cast is key to the performance."

There are two reasons that really make Stories from Home special to Yvonne. "The first is the fact that this is I created this for my son right at the heart of the work, so it is a gift," Yvonne explained. This work is highlighting communities and stories often not shared. She says "My opportunity to share my community and share my setting so that the dancer that's like me that's coming up from my community or some community like mine in the southwest can see themselves reflected in the work and it just makes it much more powerful. I'm doing it from a very personal level, but I'm also opening the door hopefully and inspiring younger generations and other movements, artist, dancers to do the same."

Why Join Us September 27th?

"You will be moved. People will be moved." Yvonne says. "It is very touching. It's a journey. It's an experience. The show will take you through a journey through time on a journey of experiences and emotions." There will be the community cast, dancers from Hillside Community Center and Pueblo coming up to share their stories from the Colorado community. "Come and see your own stories on stage in conversation with these, with a larger story from the southwest."

Look out for a podcast episode with Yvonne Montoya!
Scan the QR code to go to our podcast page!

Contingent and Community Scholars Writing Fellowship: Jorge Hernandez (24'-25' fellow)



Jorge Hernandez is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of New Mexico. He obtained his M.A. in Spanish and my B.A. in Foreign Languages and History from New Mexico State University.

As a Contingent and Community Scholar Writing Fellow, he will work broadly on his dissertation project, "Corazones Urbanos: Literary Cartographies and Southwest Cities in the Mexican American Spatial Imaginary," which examines the literary production of Mexican American communities in Tucson, Albuquerque, and San Antonio. Specifically, he will focus on his second chapter dedicated to the literary production of Tucson's urban renewal period through the works of Mario Suárez, Patricia Preciado Martín, and Lydia R. Otero. In addition to his third chapter dedicated to the representation of San Antonio and the Alamo through the works of Adina de Zavala, Carmen Tafolla, and Sandra Cisneros. As a first-gen and transfronterizo scholar who writes about the U.S. Southwest borderlands and the connection to place, his ultimate goal is to represent and honor these communities and others as best as possible through his work.

Ritual and Medicine Class Teach-In

On the last Tuesday of block 1 the Ritual and Medicine students, with the guidance of Dr. Guerra, held a teach-in on Indigenous Science. Students shared what they learned in the course, including concepts of Native Science, Red Medicine, kincentric ecology, the role of psychoactive plants in Indigenous communities, and more. They shared the medicines they crafted during the block and also food that they prepared as an offering/gift for the CC community. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us!



Mark your Calendar

October 3rd- Join us from 1:00-3:00pm for our homecoming open house! There will be refreshments and snacks. We hope to see everyone!

November 7th-Join us at 12:15pm in South Hall Commons for a Loteria event, and a conversation and screening of Napakō, a documentary film about the Coahuiltecan Language program.

Alumni Spotlight: Aracely Navarro
Class of 2018
Major: Environmental Science
Minor: Southwest Studies



What have you been up to? What are you working on?

I have been working with Groundwork Denver as the Senior Director of Community Health Programs for the past couple of years. We are focusing on environmental (in)justice issues in the Denver Metro area, including air quality, water quality and energy issues. I have mostly been working on providing community members with access and opportunities to better their health such as access to water filters, air purifiers and green infrastructure like trees and gardens. In addition, I have been working as a Doula, providing support to women of color throughout their pregnancy, birth and postpartum times. Most recently, I have co-founded an environmental and reproductive justice co-operative named: Tochtli Roots Co-op. We are a co-operative of doulas and environmental justice advocates, focused on bridging these two professions and worlds. We connect issues of reproductive health to issues of environmental health and injustice, while providing birthing people access to birth support.

How did Southwest Studies prepare you for the work you are doing?

Southwest Studies provided the very first Environmental Justice class for me. I was actually a part of the inaugural class with Karen Roybal! This completely solidified my interest and passion for environmental justice and brought to the forefront the work I wanted to do.

How have you stayed involved with Southwest Studies?

I have stayed involved by supporting Karen with Environmental Justice classes and being a guest speaker!

What is your favorite Southwest Studies memory?

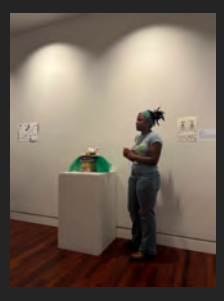
My favorite memory is going to New Mexico with Karen for our EJ class and visiting the Acequias, it was an amazing learning opportunity and something that is still relevant to my work today.

Block 3, 2025

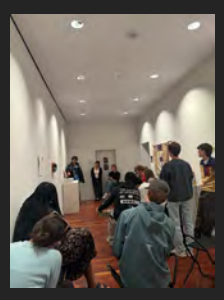
Southwest Studies Blockly Newsletter

Art, Power, & Resistance

Students in SW273 created an art exhibition based on their creative responses to course themes and concepts. The following is the exhibition label giving a sneak peek to the exhibition.



In the Colorado College course "Art, Power & Resistance," students studied selected genres and styles of cultural expression within their cultural and historical contexts, and they explored the deep and dynamic relationship between time, place, identity, and culture through various artistic traditions.

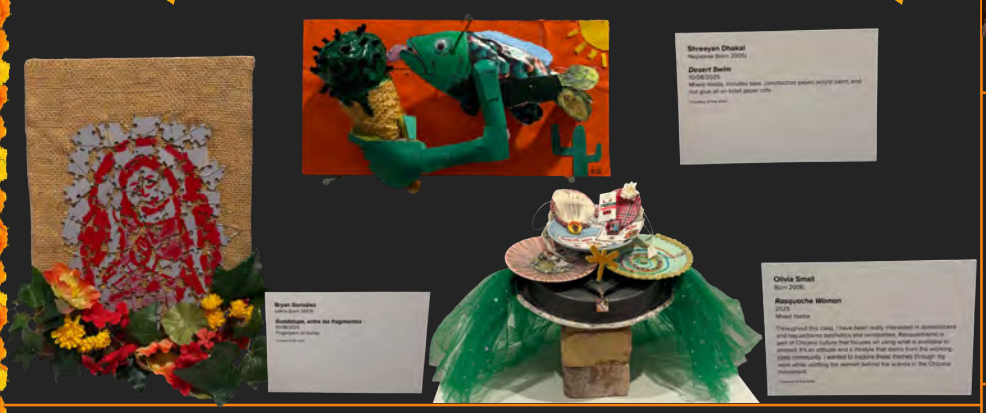


With our classroom in the Agents of Care gallery, students engaged first-hand with the rich collections of Native/Indigenous, Hispano, and other southwest art and material culture housed at the Fine Arts Center (FAC). They also met with local artists, and visited local museums and cultural centers. These experiences informed their understandings of the relationships between art and identity, how art can be a tool for decolonization, and to imagine the ways artists have created narratives of resistance and accommodation through their work.

This exhibition, adapted from an exercise developed by Dr. Jessica Hunter (Associate Director of Creativity & Innovation at CC), highlights students' creative responses to our course themes: art, power, and resistance. As you make your way through the gallery, notice the various ways students have represented the intersections of these themes through symbolism and metaphor. Do the artworks provide visual narratives that challenge how you may have previously thought about "Southwest art?"

Dr. Karen Roybal- Associate Professor of Southwest Studies

You can view the course's projects displayed at the FAC. Make sure to stop By!



Dia De Los Muertos Celebration

Mini Ofrenda Making

Come learn about the history of traditional Mexican ofrendas, or altars, made as an offering to your ancestors, and create your own to celebrate Día de Muertos. These small-scale altars will be made out of repurposed household materials and polymer clay. Participants are encouraged to bring materials from home to build their ofrenda, such as small boxes and printed photos of deceased loved ones. In this class, students will have the opportunity to learn about this rich cultural tradition and honor their own ancestors through making art.

Instructor: Savanah Pennell

October 30th drop in any time between 3pm - 7pm

at Bemis School of Art (818 Pelham Place)

Everyone is welcome!



For more information and to register Scan the QR code

CCI04: Power, Place, And the Southwest Borderlands
CCI20: Writing the Southwest Borderlands



In CCI04: Power, Place, And the Southwest Borderlands, students explored the complex place we call the Greater Southwest, including Greater Mexico, and the varied peoples who have lived, fought, traveled, written, raised families, farmed, ranched, and survived here. Using interdisciplinary epistemologies and methodologies from Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Geography, Environmental Studies, Chicanx/Latinx, Critical Indigenous, and Literary Studies, students investigated strands of culture (indigenous and imported) that have intertwined in this region over the last thousand years.



The course considers relationships between Indigenous nations, Hispano/Latinx/Chicanx, Black and Asian populations, and Euro-American groups in the natural setting of the Southwest to better understand the conflict, cooperation, and cultural blending among these groups; the ways they understand and affect the biophysical landscape; and how land/nature has forged relationships within and between these groups.





While in CCI20: Writing the Southwest Borderlands, students explored place-based writing about, from, and between cultures and landscapes of the Greater Southwest (including Mexico). Using interdisciplinary perspectives on texts, writing, orality, testimony, and genre, students investigated how the multiple cultures of the region write about experience, place, power, equity, and difference. Building on CCI00 Power, Place, and the Southwest Borderlands, they explored how primary and secondary sources converge in multiple forms of narrative, story, and genre in defining the peoples and places of the region.





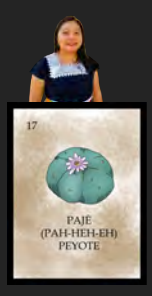
Mark Your Calendar

Oct 30th- Dia de los Muertos Celebration: Mini Ofrenda Making Drop In Between 3pm-7pm at Bemis School of Art (818 Pelham Place)

Nov 7th- Aficionados Speaker Series from 12:00pm to 1:30pm in South Hall Commons **Documentary Screening** at 5:30pm in Max Kade Theatre

Dec 10th- Poetry reading by Ire'ne Lara Silva at 6:00 pm in max kade theatre

Aficionados Speaker Series & Documentary Screening



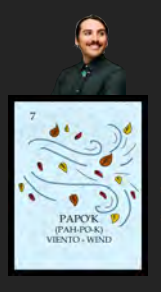
Friday, November 7th

Aficionados Speaker Series- from 12:00pm-1:30pm in South Hall Commons

Documentary Screening- at 5:30pm in Max Kade Theatre

Aficionados Speaker Series (and Lotería)

Lunch Talk Presented By: Jose Dominguez, elder Maria Rocha and Dr. Sánchez Flores



Lunch Talk Presented By: Jose Dominguez, elder Maria Rocha and Dr. Sánchez Flores The lunch talk will present an overview of the project's history and current projects. The speakers will share their project, Lotería in Coahuilteco, that they completed this summer 2025. The end of the talk will include rounds of Lotería, so come ready to play! Lunch included; RSVP below.



Documentary Screening

Presented By: Jose Dominguez, elder Maria Rocha, Dr. Sánchez Flores, and Directors Katherine Beard and Claire Barber

A screening of the documentary film called Napakō directed and edited by Claire Barber and Katherine Beard. After showing the documentary, there will be a Q&A with Jose Dominguez, elder Maria Rocha, and the directors of the documentary.

RSVP NOT Required for Documentary Screening

Scan QR Code to RSVP for the Aficionados Lunch or email swshulbert@coloradocollege.edu

SOUTHWEST STUDIES BLOCKLY NEWSLETTER

BLOCK 4, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR.....

WE HAD A BUSY FALL SEMESTER IN SOUTHWEST STUDIES, AS WE WELCOMED A NEW GROUP OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN OUR CC100/120 COURSES, HOSTED TWO AFICIONADOS LECTURES, PLAYED "LOTERIA IN COAHUILTECAN," HOSTED A FILM SCREENING, AND ATTENDED THE WESTERN HISTORY ASSOCIATION'S (WHA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ALBUQUERQUE, NM. OUR SWS FACULTY, ALONGSIDE OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS, DR. TESSA CÓRDOVA (LAS PISTOLERAS INSTITUTO CULTURAL DE ARTE), ERIC CARPIO (FORT GARLAND MUSEUM), DR. ESTEVAN RAÉL-GÁLVEZ (NATIVE BOUND/UNBOUND), AND DR. MYRRIAH GÓMEZ, PRESENTED "ROOTED IN PLACE: A ROUNDTABLE SITUATING THE SOUTHWEST THROUGH COLLABORATIVE TEACHING AND ENGAGEMENT." WE'LL END THE YEAR WITH A BLOCK 4 POETRY READING BY IRE'NE LARA SILVA, AND OUR ANNUAL SWS HOLIDAY PARTY. ENJOY THE HOLIDAY BREAK AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR 2026 EVENTS!







Dr. Karen Roybal

The Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies Director

READING AND Q&A WITH POET AND WRITER IRE'NE LARA SILVA

THE HULBERT CENTER FOR SOUTHWEST STUDIES AND THE VISITING WRITER SERIES INVITE YOU TO A READING AND Q&A WITH IRENE LARA SILVA, WHO WILL READING FROM HER LATEST POETRY COLLECTION, THE EATERS OF FLOWERS, AND HER FORTHCOMING SHORT STORY COLLECTION, THE LIGHT OF YOUR BODY.



JOIN US! DECEMBER 10TH AT 6PM IN MAX KADE THEATRE.

A THANK YOU FROM ELDER MARIA AND JOSÉ OUR AFICIONADOS PRESENTERS :)

AH MANĀM (IT IS GOOD) HULBERT CENTER FOR SOUTHWEST STUDIES,

LAST FRIDAY, WE HAD THE HONOR OF SHARING OUR COMMUNITY WORK ON THE COAHUILTECAN LANGUAGE RECLAMATION WITH THE COLORADO COLLEGE COMMUNITY. WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND WARM WELCOME.

WE TRULY APPRECIATED THE MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS, THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR JOURNEY, AND THE CHANCE TO CONNECT WITH YOU ALL ABOUT OUR LONG-TERM PROJECT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS DIALOGUE AND SHARING MORE ABOUT OUR UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO OUR INDIGENOUS CULTURES INSTITUTE (ICI) WEBPAGE:

WEBPAGE

SCAN THE QR CODE DOCUMENTARY NAPAKŌ:

DOCUMENTARY

YO MANĀM (ALL IS GOOD)

LOTERIA WINNERS!



Dr. Dwanna McKay

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF DR. DWANNA MCKAY (REMS), ONE OF OUR SOUTHWEST STUDIES AFFILIATES, WHO PASSED AWAY ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11. SHE WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HER INCREDIBLE ADVOCACY FOR STUDENTS, HER RICH CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR SWS CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH, AND HER GENEROUS FRIENDSHIP. IN DR. MCKAY'S HONOR WE SAY, "GOOGLE HER. SHE'S KIND OF A BIG DEAL." (IYKYK) AND #RESIST!



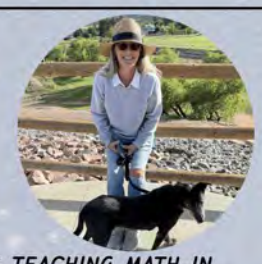
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER 10TH- READING AND Q&A WITH POET AND WRITER IRE'NE LARA SILVA AT 6PM IN MAX KADE THEATRE.

FEBRUARY 26TH- PAUL ESPINOSA FILM SCREENING AT 4PM IN CORNERSTONE SCREENING ROOM

MARCH 25TH- MARIA LANE AFICIONADOS LECTURE

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LISA PATE CLASS OF 2005 MAT IN SOUTHWEST STUDIES



I FINISHED MY GRADUATE WORK AT CC IN 2005. AT THE TIME, I WAS TEACHING MATH IN LEWIS PALMER SCHOOL DISTRICT 38. I CONTINUED TEACHING THE NEXT TWELVE YEARS, ALTHOUGH I CHANGED TO AP PSYCHOLOGY IN 2012, UNTIL MY EARLY RETIREMENT TO CARE FOR MY FATHER.

THE SOUTHWEST STUDIES PROGRAM PREPARED ME FOR EVERYTHING I PURSUED AFTERWARDS BY ENCOURAGING ME TO APPROACH MY LIFE, WORK INCLUDED, AS A SCHOLAR WOULD. I CONTINUED LEARNING BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM, WHICH LED ME TO A GRADUATE PROGRAM ON PEACE EDUCATION AT CAL POLY—IT WAS TRANSFORMATIVE.

MY FAVORITE SOUTHWEST STUDIES MEMORY WAS AT THE FINE ARTS MUSEUM IN ALBUQUERQUE, NM. WITH DR. DOUG MONROY. THE CLASS WAS WALKING THROUGH THE MUSEUM, EXAMINING EACH EXHIBIT. I WALKED PAST WHAT I ASSUMED TO BE AN UNUSED SPACE AND DR. MONROY MOTIONED FOR ME TO RETURN.

WHEN I STEPPED BACK, HE ASKED, "WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS PIECE?"

FEELING CONFUSED, I LOOKED AGAIN. THE ONLY THING IN THE SMALL RECTANGULAR SPACE WAS A BLUE SQUARE, ABOUT EYE LEVEL.

"DO YOU MEAN THIS?" I ASKED.

"YES, WHAT DO YOU SEE?"

I SAID, "DOUG, THAT'S A BLUE SQUARE."

HE LAUGHED AT MY LACK OF VISION AND ENCOURAGED ME TO HAVE ANOTHER LOOK, TO NOTICE THE WAY THE LIGHT REFLECTED OFF OF THE TEXTURE, YADA, YADA, YADA.

I NARROWED MY EYES AT HIM AND RESPONDED, "DOUG, I TEACH GEOMETRY AND THAT IS A BLUE SQUARE."

HE SHOOK HIS HEAD, AMAZED AT MY INADEQUATE, AND DEFINITELY INFERIOR, SKILLS IN ART APPRECIATION.

THE MEMORY STILL MAKES ME LAUGH.

BUT IT WAS A BLUE SQUARE ... WORTH QUITE A BIT OF MONEY, EVIDENTLY.

LISA AND HER HUSBAND ARE BOTH RETIRED AND ENJOYING THE SLOWER PACE OF LIFE—ALTHOUGH THEIR DAYS FILL UP QUICKLY WITH VOLUNTEERING, KAYAKING AND CYCLING. SHE'S CURRENTLY SPENDING THE BULK OF HER REMAINING FREE TIME WRITING. SHE FINISHED HER FIRST NOVEL AND IS WORKING ON A SECOND WHILE SHE PURSUES REPRESENTATION IN THE LITERARY WORLD.

THE HULBERT CENTER FOR SOUTHWEST STUDIES HAD A MAT PROGRAM IN SOUTHWEST STUDIES. THIS PROGRAM WAS OFFERED TO EXPERIENCED TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, ALLOWING THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOUTHWEST, TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE THEY COULD APPLY IN THEIR PROFESSION, AND TO EXAMINE NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.

Southwest Studies Blockly Newsletter

Block 5, 2026

26' Spring/Summer Courses

Block 5

EV321: Environmental Development Management
SW322: Borders & Borderlands

Block 6

SW310/HY304: Archives of Power

Block 7

SW301/EV301: Political Ecology of the Southwest
SW395: Junior Research Seminar
SW220/EV220: Environmental Justice in the SW
SW102: Space, Place, and the Southwest

Block 8

SW252: Marijuana Movement and Cannabis Culture
SW244: Museums of the Southwest: Cultures and Communities

Block A (REMOTE)

SW259: Ritual and Medicine of the Southwest

Block C (REMOTE)

SW251: The Drug War **MAKE SURE TO REGISTER**

Alumni Spotlight: Flor Vargas

Class of 2023

Major in Southwest Studies



What have you been up to? What are you working on?

I have been working in the field of education in different capacities, from canvassing school board elections, working at a college in the registrar's office, and currently working as a college advisor at a Title I school. I also recently applied to a master's program!

How did Southwest Studies prepare you for the work you are doing?

I do a lot of writing, speaking to people of different backgrounds, and a TON of advocating because I work with marginalized populations. I feel like I was able to transfer every skill and piece of knowledge from each class. The major gave me the language and tools to understand the importance of the work I am currently doing, which is college access for low-income, first-generation students.

How have you stayed involved with Southwest Studies?

I developed really meaningful relationships with my professors, and they were the first people I asked about the graduate school experience. Not only did they offer the best advice, but they also offered to write my letters. The support and love in that department is so big!

What is your favorite Southwest Studies memory?

My thesis experience... all of it. The department connected me with the coolest people, and it was completely funded.

Why should students major or minor in Southwest Studies?

I think people often get caught up in wanting to major in something general and useful in college. I think that's why I was hesitant to declare the major, despite taking Southwest Studies classes back to my first year. The skills I learned were easily transferable and applicable to all the jobs I've had. I also LOVE history, and there's no better place to learn about Southwest Studies than in the Southwest! :)



1st YR

4th YR



My first year! We took a van to New Mexico and stopped at the Royal Gorge.

Picture taken by Professor Roybal during my thesis presentation! :)

Film Screening + Q&A with Senior Producer Paul Espinosa

A Forgotten Conflict: The U.S.-Mexican War, 1846-1848



The U.S.-Mexican War: 1846-1848 is a PBS documentary series exploring the events surrounding the conflict between two neighboring nations struggling for land, power and national identity. Despite dramatically changing the destiny of both countries, the war is a historical chapter that few Americans know much about but which few Mexicans will ever forget.





Senior Producer Paul Espinosa will present a select one-hour segment of this landmark four-hour series.

February 26th at 4pm in Cornerstone Screening Room

Major Fair

PLEASE STOP BY OUR TABLE AT THE MAJOR FAIR! Karen, Pierre, and Buzz will be there giving all the information about Southwest Studies!

This is the perfect time to ask questions and see how southwest studies can fit in your schedule during your time at CC!

We will have handouts and stickers to take home!

February 2nd
from 12pm-2pm
Worner Campus Center



SW244: Museums of the Southwest: Cultures and Communities

Interested in museums? Looking for an engaging 8th Block class?



Join Visiting Professor Savanah Pennell for an interactive preview of her Block 8 class

Wednesday January 28th from 3:30pm-4:30pm at the Fine Arts Center Agents of Care Gallery



This course will be taught by block visitor Savanah Pennell, a Chicana artist, researcher, and curator. Her scholarship focuses on both contemporary Chicanx art of the southwest and historical Spanish Colonial devotional art produced in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. As an artist, her work explores Chicana identity and aesthetics related to spirituality, memory, and nostalgia.

Block 6, 2026

Southwest Studies Blockly Newsletter

ZINE WORKSHOP

Join Visiting Professor Savanah Pennell for a Zine making workshop in preview of her Block 8 class: SW307: Museums and the Presentation of the Southwest. Stop in to learn how to make your own mini zine and to hear about this exciting upcoming class!



Visiting Professor Savanah Pennell

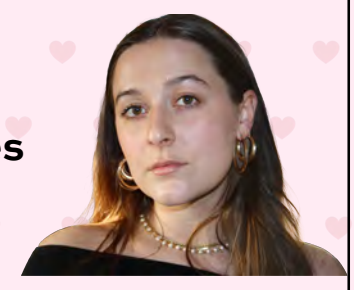
ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME

Tuesday, February 24th at 3:00PM at Dern House (Southwest Studies House)

Alumni Spotlight: Isabel Lanzetta

Class of 2022

Double Major in Southwest Studies & English (Creative Writing)



What have you been up to? What are you working on?

When I first graduated from Colorado College, I moved to Denver–first, to be a Literacy Tutor in Commerce City before moving on to work as a Librarian Assistant at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in Five Points. I loved that work and the community I found there, but in January of 2024, I was accepted into a Master of Fine Arts program at Arizona State University. I moved to Phoenix in July to pursue my degree, and I've been here since. Currently, I'm working on my Applied Project, a mixed-media writing project that interrogates memory, composed of diaristic archives, weaving the years of my life I spent in Colorado with my return to the desert.

How did Southwest Studies prepare you for the work you are doing?

When I was applying to school and I knew that I wanted to study writing, a mentor of mine suggested that I take classes outside of the English Department. It was their opinion that just as much as learning about form, syntax, and cannon would contribute to my learning, expanding my field of vision to other interests and knowledge would transform my writing. He was right. My time in the Southwest Studies program expanded my understanding of the capabilities of a creative practice in furthering the research and reading I was doing, and made me a far more interesting scholar, writer, and thinker. I am immensely grateful for the program for expanding my field of vision and supporting my interdisciplinary work and research. During my studies, I was exposed to academic research pedagogy and archival records that have remained essential to my work to this day, and I know my writing is richer for it.

How have you stayed involved with Southwest Studies?

My advisor, Karen Roybal, has been a huge supporter since my time in the program. I feel fortunate that I have been able to reach out to her for letters of recommendation and support during these transitions. Life, of course, has gotten busy, but I've been trying to stay in touch as best I can. I haven't yet visited any classes, but I would love to see more of how programming has grown and changed in the years since I've been gone!

What is your favorite Southwest Studies memory?

One of the things I loved most about majoring in Southwest Studies was how hands-on the learning was. Beyond the actual material of the classes, which felt challenging and invigorating, I loved the getting to visit the Paseo Festival in Taos, and the field trip we took to the Fine Arts Center with then resident artist Virgil Ortiz, where we got to see from behind the scenes some of the work he was doing.

Why should students major or minor in Southwest Studies?

From courses on literature, ecology, cultural landscapes, and art history, Southwest Studies is a unique opportunity to learn more about the region and history of Colorado and the Southwest, but also to learn how to follow your nose as a scholar and thinker. You can take courses that align with your interests and challenge yourself to think more deeply about the academic and personal lineages you come from. You will connect with students who are invested in interdisciplinary research and mentors who will support you. It's my personal view that every student at Colorado College should take a class in this Department at least once during their time there.

"Take a class! Attend an event! Make the most of the time you have to get involved now. It will be worth it."

Rafael Martinez Campus Visit

LUNCH LECTURE — **MAPPING RESISTANCE: HISTORICIZING UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH MOVEMENTS**

This talk explores how undocumented youth have transformed the politics of migration through creative strategies of resistance and storytelling. Drawing from his book, Illegalized: Undocumented Youth Movements in the United States, Dr. Rafael Martínez examines his methodology of (un)documenting—a practice that challenges state-centered narratives by producing archives rooted in lived experience. The lecture situates how immigrant youth build from local struggles towards escalating activism into regional and national movements, while redefining activism, memory, and identity. Attendees will gain insight into the power of narrative as a tool for social change and the ways communities resist erasure through grassroots archiving.

MARCH 5TH AT 12PM IN SOUTH HALL COMMONS

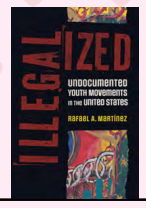
EVENING WORKSHOP — **"(UN)DOCUMENTING IN PRACTICE: DESIGNING SHARED ARCHIVES FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS ACTIVISM"**

This workshop draws on the (un)documenting methodology from Illegalized: Undocumented Youth Movements in the United States, and introduces participants to a collaborative framework for ethically documenting social movements and student activism across community and institutions. Through interactive exercises, participants will:

- Explore how counterarchives can challenge dominant narratives.
- Center undocumented communities as knowledge producers.
- Develop strategies for shared stewardship among libraries, student organizations, and faculty.
- Addressing questions of consent, access, and the politics of archiving.
- Create actionable models that resist privatization of knowledge and foster networks of support across campuses.

MARCH 5TH AT 6PM IN SOUTH HALL COMMONS

RSVP REQUIRED FOR LUNCH LECTURE & ENCOURAGED FOR EVENING WORKSHOP

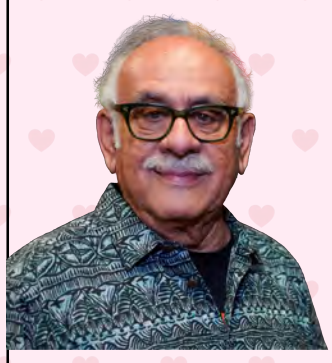


SW:322 Borders & Borderlands

Dr. Guerra's Borders & Borderlands class trip to Rio Grande City, Texas!



Film Screening + Q&A with Senior Producer Paul Espinosa



A Forgotten Conflict: The U.S.-Mexican War, 1846-1848

The U.S.-Mexican War: 1846-1848 is a PBS documentary series exploring the events surrounding the conflict between two neighboring nations struggling for land, power and national identity. Despite dramatically changing the destiny of both countries, the war is a historical chapter that few Americans know much about but which few Mexicans will ever forget.

Senior Producer Paul Espinosa will present a select one-hour segment of this landmark four-hour series.

February 26th at 4pm in Cornerstone Screening Room

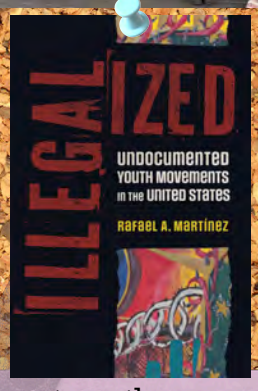
Southwest Studies Blockly Newsletter

BLOCK 7
2026

Rafael Martinez's Campus Visit



"I was honored to visit Colorado College this March for a series of events hosted by the Southwest Studies Program, including a public book talk on *Illegalized: Undocumented Youth Movements in the United States* (2024), an interactive workshop on (un)documenting and collaborative archiving practices, and a class visit for Dr. Karen Roybal's course Archives of Power. Across each gathering, I was struck by the intellectual curiosity and generosity of the students, faculty, and staff who created such a warm and welcoming environment for deep conversation. The department's commitment to interdisciplinary inquiry and community-engaged scholarship made the visit especially meaningful.





What stayed with me most was the energy and insight of the students I met, particularly those involved with Advocates for Immigrant Justice (AIJ) and the dedicated staff from the Butler Center. Their critical questions, lived experiences, and passion for immigrant rights and archival justice enriched every moment of my time on campus. I left Colorado College inspired by the thoughtful dialogue we shared about narrative, memory, and resistance, and grateful for the chance to build connections with a community so deeply committed to ethical storytelling and social transformation."

Dr. Rafael A. Martinez

Archives of Power





SCAN THE QR CODES TO VIEW SW310/HY304: Archives of Power- FINAL PROJECTS





Mandala

Ann

Lillian

Kal

Dean

Ava

Claire

Caroline

Maria Lane's Lunch Lecture

Join us for Maria Lane's lecture "Fluid Geographies" !

She will present research from her 2024 book *Fluid Geographies*, which chronicles the rise of scientific water management during New Mexico's late territorial period. Her presentation will discuss the fascinating intersections between environmental change, settlement policy, water disputes, and scientific knowledge in the early 1900s.

March 25th
12pm
Gaylord Hall

THE HULBERT CENTER for SOUTHWEST STUDIES

RSVP USING QR CODE

WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLORADO COLLEGE

CC Memorial for Dr. Dwanna McKay

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Dr. Karen Roybal and the planning committee invite you to a memorial in honor of Dr. Dwanna McKay.

If you're in and around Colorado Springs, we hope you can attend.

April 3rd

12:30pm-2:30pm

TAVA QUAD @CC

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, MEMORIAL WILL BE HELD IN BEMIS GREAT HALL

RSVP USING QR CODE

Southwest Studies Senior Presentations

Join us for our Southwest Studies Majors' Senior Presentations!

Presentations By:

-Beth Thompson -Alondra Valdez
-Kitty Evans -Caroline Schlehuber

APRIL 9th from 12:15pm-2:00pm

SOUTHWEST STUDIES HOUSE

LUNCH PROVIDED

RSVP USING QR CODE

Southwest Studies Blockly Newsletter

Block 8, 2026

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As we close out the 2025-26 academic year, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to you for supporting our Southwest Studies programming. This year that programming included filmmakers, SWS alums, and scholars of nuclear colonialism, water management, archival (un)documenting, and Indigenous enslavement. This list demonstrates the breadth of interdisciplinary approaches our program takes to fostering a holistic understanding of the Southwest region. This programming wouldn't be possible without the help our amazing staff: Buzz Katsev, Daisy Gómez Rivera, and Oziel Cime.

At the end of this academic year, our program will be saying goodbye to our paraprofessional, Daisy, who will be starting a new job with Catholic Charities, and our work-study, Oziel , who will be graduating in May. They will be missed, but we're excited for them as they begin new adventures. We wish you both the best!

I hope you all have a good, restful summer. We look forward to seeing you again in fall 2026!

Karen Roybal
W.M. Keck Director of the Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies
Director, Southwest Studies Academic Program
Associate Professor of Southwest Studies

GRADUATING SENIORS



ALONDRA



CAROLINE



BETH



KITTY



LILY



RACHEL



JOSIE



BRYAN

THE NORMAN LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS

RECOVERING HISTORIES OF THE VALLEY VECINOS: WHO WERE THE NATIVE NEW MEXICAN WORKERS OF THE MANHATTAN PROJECT?





LECTURE BY: Dr. Myrriah Gómez

Between 1942 and 1945, Project Y of the Manhattan Project occupied the Pajarito Plateau in northern New Mexico. The national narrative of this project to build the world's first nuclear weapons often hyperfocuses on the scientists, military personnel, and their families that arrived in Los Alamos and remained cloistered throughout the duration of the project; however, little to no attention has been paid to the local labor force that was transported to and from the hill and also assisted with the project as blue collar workers. This local labor force was comprised of nuevomexicano (Spanish-speaking Mexican Americans) and Tewa (Indigenous Pueblo) peoples. This talk examines the recovery work in progress to bring the faces, names, and stories of local laborers to the forefront of the history of native New Mexicans in the national narrative of the Manhattan Project.

JOIN US APRIL 28TH AT 6PM IN THE CORNERSTONE SCREENING ROOM

DEPARTMENT GOODBYES

It was a pleasure to have been the Southwest Studies Paraprofessional for the last two academic years. I am forever grateful for the opportunity. I was able to work with amazing colleagues and students. I can't wait to see the next chapter of the Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies. Thank you Karen and Santiago for being the best directors!! Thank you Buzz and Pierre for keeping me company :) Thank you Eric for always making me laugh. Oziel thanks for always having my back! Bye Southwest Studies I will miss you!- **Daisy Gomez Rivera**

No other department does it like the Southwest Studies. The people at the Hulbert Center really got it all. A special thank you to the professors I got to work for, Santiago, Karen, Eric, and April, are special people in my heart. I was hired as a student assistant, and from the first day, the SWS dept. has made me feel like so much more. I found comfort and community beyond anything I could've imagined when I applied. Thank you, Buzz and Daisy. Again, thank you to my professors. - **Oziel Cime**

COURSES IN ACTION





SW220/EV220: Environmental Justice in the Southwest

This course is designed to provide students with an interdisciplinary approach to understanding environmental issues through an environmental justice lens. During the course, they gained a better understanding of the ways in which environmental justice is about the relationship between scholarship and theory, and about action, organizing, and raising awareness (in other words, non-scholarly activities)





SW102: Place, Space and the Southwest

Students from Space, Place, and the Southwest presented a collection of creative, research-driven projects that engage deeply with the layered histories and lived realities of present-day Colorado. Drawing on social, historical, environmental, and cultural perspectives, each student has developed a "tool" that reflects both an understanding of the region and an imaginative proposal for how we might live more thoughtfully and sustainably in the future.



