THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Building Sustainable Worlds: Latinx Placemaking in the Midwest

In collaboration with: Northwestern University, University of Iowa, University of Minnesota, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign

INITIAL QUESTIONS
• How do Latinas/os in the Midwest create communities and sustain themselves?
• How are Latinas/os impacted by the physical and material climate and environments of the region?
• How do Latinas/os reflect upon, react to, and transform their cultural and physical environments to create sustainable communities?
• How do Latinas/os manage to sustain these communities amongst culturally, politically, and socially hostile climates?

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS
• Principal Investigators
  • Geraldo Cadava, Associate Professor, History, Northwestern University
  • Theresa Delgadillo, Professor, Comparative Studies, The Ohio State University
  • Claire Fox, Professor, English, University of Iowa
  • Ramón Rivera-Servera, Associate Professor, Performance Studies, Northwestern University

• Participants
  • Karen Mary Davalos, Professor, Latinx Studies, University of Minnesota
  • Delia Fernández, Assistant Professor, History, Michigan State University
  • Laura LaFountain, Assistant Professor, Latinx Studies, University of Michigan
  • Sergio Gonzales, Graduate Student, History, UW-Madison
  • Ariana Ruiz, Assistant Professor, Spanish & Portuguese, University of Iowa
  • Sandra Ruiz, Assistant Professor, Latinx Studies & English, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign

• Graduate Collaborators
  • Laura Fernández, Spanish & Portuguese, OSU
  • Marie Lerma, Women’s & Gender & Sexuality Studies, OSU
  • Leila Vieira, Spanish & Portuguese, OSU

• Undergraduate Research Assistants
  • Genevieve Arce, California State University-LA
  • Sophie Delacruz, Grand Valley State University

• Graduate Collaborators
  • Marie Lerma, Women’s & Gender & Sexuality Studies, OSU
  • Leila Vieira, Spanish & Portuguese, OSU

AIMS
• To bring together scholars from across the Midwest to explore the importance of Midwestern Latinx efforts at placemaking in formal and everyday performance, literature, and cultural and arts centers
• Strengthen Latinx Studies networks through collaborative and regionally focused research and curricular projects

METHODS
Some of the research methods used in this project include:
• Ethnographic fieldwork
• Participant observation
• Formal & informal interviews
• Interdisciplinary research
• Collaborative workshops
• Archival research
• Textual and Discursive Analysis and Interpretation

PERFORMANCE
This cluster will examine the formal and everyday performance in Latinx communities in the Midwest, including the histories of possibilities for Latinx performance, its audiences and reception, and how they have responded to changing environmental, political, and socio-cultural climates. A major component to this cluster has been research on Latinx ethnic festivals across Ohio to examine their role in defining Latinx communities & identities.

Participants involved in the cluster: Theresa Delgadillo, Laura Fernandez, Larry LaFountain, Ramón H. Rivera-Servera, Sandra Ruiz

LITERATURE & FILM
This cluster will examine the role of Latinx placemaking in film, fiction, essays, poetry, autobiography, memoir, graphic novels, and YA literature (published in both English & Spanish) from the Midwest or about Latinx life in the Midwest. By doing so, this cluster seeks to generate new research on the underrepresented genre of Latinx Midwestern literature & film, and analyzing events and gatherings dedicated to Latinx film & literature that are held in the region.

Participants involved in the cluster: Geraldo Cadava, Theresa Delgadillo, Ariana Ruiz, Leila Vieira

CULTURAL & ARTS CENTERS
This cluster will examine the formation of cultural, arts, & community centers, and efforts to claim space, among Latinx groups in collaboration with local and regional community leaders who have been active in these efforts to generate new archives, analyze the kinds of placemaking these institutions enact and allow, and consider contemporary and future pressures on that kind of formation.

Participants involved in the cluster: , Karen Mary Davalos, Delia Fernandez, Claire Fox, Sergio Gonzalez, Elena Gutierrez, Marie Lerma

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS
• For more information on this research, please contact: Professor Theresa Delgadillo, Department of Comparative Studies and Latina/o Studies, Email: delgado05.1@osu.edu
• For questions about your rights as a participant in this study, or to discuss other study-related concerns or complaints with someone who is not part of the research team, please contact: Ms. Sandra Meadows, Office of Responsible Research Practices, (614) 688-4792; or email: hsrconcerns@osu.edu