

Faculty

Rising Stars of UT's Latin Americanist Faculty

Latin American Studies at the University of Texas is recognized as one of the best programs in the country, and the addition of outstanding new faculty is key to its continued growth and attraction for students. Here we introduce you to three bright lights at UT, all arrivals within the past few years.

FRANK GURIDY'S research interests explore the histories of the African Diaspora in the Americas, focusing on the social and cultural engagements between Afro-Cubans and African Americans in the twentieth century. Assistant Professor of History, he is affiliated with LLILAS and the Center for African and African American Studies. Frank's course offerings include: "African Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean," "Re-imagining Cuba," "Caribbean Racial Formations," "Modern Latin America," and "The U.S. Presence in Latin America and the Caribbean." To Frank, "Cuba is particularly salient because it teaches us about the longstanding histories

of transnational relationships and empire-building, issues that are alive and well in our current moment."

Frank received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan in 2002. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in 2002–2003 and received a Dorothy Danforth Compton Fellowship in 1999–2000 from the Institute for the Study of World Politics.

JOSSIANNA ARROYO MARTÍNEZ, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, specializes in the analysis of literary and cultural discourses of Brazil and the Spanish Caribbean (Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico); postcolonial and feminist criticism; and the intersection of discourses of race, gender, and sexuality. Course offerings include "Culture and Politics in the Hispanic Caribbean: Afro-Diasporas," "Introduction to Spanish American Literature since Modernism," "Nation and Transnation in the Hispanic Caribbean," and a graduate seminar, "Technologies: Language, Politics, and

Culture in the Americas of Fin de Siglo." Jossianna's research explores the analysis of global connections between Freemasons in the Spanish Caribbean and the United States from Earl Lewis's concept of "overlapping diasporas" and focusing on Masonic conceptualizations of the word as technology and its representation of race, global capital, and alternative communities. She is working on her forthcoming book titled: *Fin de siglo: Secrecy and Technologies of the Word in Caribbean Freemasonry*.

She comments, "My interdisciplinary link between Latin American, Caribbean and African Diaspora Studies puts together themes which have defined my research since my years as an undergraduate student at the University of Puerto Rico: racial, gender, and class inequalities and their relationship to colonial oppression. Studies about the African Diaspora bring awareness to the complex political, economic, and social struggle of Afro-descendants in the Americas. As I have found during my years studying Brazil and the Spanish Caribbean, intersectionalities of race, gender, and sexuality shed light into forms of colonial oppression which remain intact in our so-called 'equal' global world. If contemporary migration from Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States still defines what it means to be 'American,' while it has created new sociopolitical and economic frontiers, as I show in my new book, these 'frontiers' are not new to this country but have been part of the United States's colonial and imperial history since the nineteenth century."

Jossianna is affiliated with both LLILAS and the Center for African and African American





**New LLILAS Concentration:
Cultural Politics of
Afro-Latin and Indigenous Peoples**

This graduate concentration in the LLILAS master's program trains students to analyze the politics of racialized peoples at the margins of Latin American societies, through the lens of culture theory. Within this broadly defined approach, the particular strength of LLILAS faculty and greatest diversity of course offerings can be found in topics that cluster around the study of racial formation, language politics and ideologies, gender relations, identity politics and social movements, and ideologies of nation building, with a strong emphasis on historical analysis.

This "cultural politics" approach has a dual point of reference: (1) analysis of political processes in which cultural differences play

a prominent role, and (2) systematic inquiry into the cultural construction of categories that people use to engage in politics and to explain political outcomes to one another. An example of the first is the analysis of indigenous and Afro-Latin movements for rights and resources in Latin America; an example of the latter is scrutiny of the categories of race and nation through which these rights are claimed, contested, and exercised. For more information go to: <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/llilas/masters/ma/concentrate>

In Memoriam

LLILAS lost two esteemed professors during 2005. Dr. Richard Schaedel passed away at the age of 85 after more than 40 years at the University of Texas. He was the founding editor of the *Latin American Research Review* and editor of the ILAS Publications program (before the institute was renamed LLILAS). For two years, he served as associate director of the institute. In 1987, Schaedel was issued a Doctor Honoris Causa from the Universidad de Trujillo, where he had founded the Instituto de Antropología in the late 1940s. An avid traveler, Dr. Schaedel was trained in anthropology and archaeology and was interested in researching subjects from Andean stone sculpture to Moche ethnography.

Another much-loved UT faculty member, Dr. Gerard Béhague, died in June 2005 after almost 30 years at the university. As a Murchison Regents Professor in Fine Arts and Music, he developed an innovative program in ethnomusicology that gained worldwide esteem. Dr. Béhague was founding editor of the *Latin American Music Review* and wrote *Heitor Villa-Lobos: The Search for Brazil's Musical Soul* which he published with LLILAS in 1994, the year he also was inducted into the Brazilian Academy of Music.

Both Drs. Schaedel and Béhague will be greatly missed by the university community and by the many people who appreciated their work throughout the Americas.

Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Hispanic languages and literature from the University of California, Berkeley.

DANIEL BRINKS, Assistant Professor of Government in the fields of comparative politics and public law, teaches courses in comparative politics, comparative judicial politics, democracy and democratization, and Latin American politics, as well as courses at the UT Law School. Dan's research focuses on the role

of the law and courts in supporting or extending the rights associated with democracy, with a primary regional interest in Latin America. His most recent projects address the judicial response to police violence in Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay; the use of the courts and law to enforce social and economic rights in the developing world; judicial independence; and the role of informal norms in the legal order. He is also interested in the study of democracy more generally, and has written

on the classification of regimes in Latin America, and on the global diffusion of democracy in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Dan will be spending the 2006–2007 academic year as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Notre Dame's Kellogg Institute for International Studies, working on his research project "Law and Rights in Developing Countries: The Impact

of Legal Strategies on Social and Economic Rights." "This is a very exciting project," he says. "We are exploring the use of law and courts to expand access to health care and education in Brazil, India, South Africa, Indonesia, and Nigeria. We hope to put together the first comprehensive study of the conditions under which legal strategies can make a real difference in these critical areas for human development."

Daniel was born and raised in Argentina. He has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Notre Dame and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. He practiced law for nearly ten years before returning to academia, including a period clerking for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. ✨

