

• UNL INSTITUTE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES • FACULTY RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITY FALL 2021

The spring of 2021 found the **Institute for Ethnic Studies (IES)** continuing to deal with three crises: the COVID-19 pandemic, a University budget crisis, and the ongoing institutional impacts of racism upon persons of color (and their allies). While weathering the storm of these crises, the Institute still made great strides in its publications, teaching, and service, all towards our goal of social/racial justice. This semester culminated in our Spring Celebration in March, highlighted by Native American (Lakota) poet and humorist Tiffany Midge's appearance as keynote speaker, plus two colloquia on indigenous sovereignty and social justice pedagogy. The IES faculty's productivity during this period included a wild ride of academic presentations, panel moderations, journal articles, book chapters, book deals, and grants. This newsletter offers highlights of these achievements during the spring (& summer) of 2021.

— *Tom Gannon, IES Associate Director*



LORY DANCE ldance2@unl.edu

Dr. Dance conceived, co-organized, and moderated **Black Musicians and Liberation: A Digital Panel Discussion**, which took place on February 25, 2021. This event was co-sponsored by The Black Cat House of Lincoln, The Institute for Ethnic Studies, and The African and African American Studies Program. In March 2021, Dance was awarded the **College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) Inclusive Excellence and Diversity Award**.



TOM GANNON tgannon2@unl.edu

Dr. Gannon spent the summer of 2021 completing an article titled **“Flights and Songs and Screams’: Walt Whitman's Birds”** (forthcoming in the Oxford Handbook of Walt Whitman [Oxford UP]) and revising his book manuscript **LifeLook: Confessions of a Crossblood Birder** (under contract with Machete/The Ohio State UP). He also served as consultant, on Native language names and species identifications—including authoring placard and QR-code text—for a UNL-commissioned arts installation project by Nancy Friedemann, titled **Nebraska’s Fauna and Flora: Another History**.



JAMES GARZAjgarza2@unl.edu

Dr. Garza has a chapter forthcoming in 2022, “**Engineering the Porfirian Landscape: Technology and Social Change in the Basin of Mexico, 1890-1910**,” in the edited volume *Technocratic Visions: Engineers, Technology, and Society in Mexico,*

1876-1946 (University of Pittsburgh Press), which he is co-editing with Justin Castro from Arkansas State University.

James also received a Layman New Directions Grant to conduct research in 2021-2022 for his long-term project on the history of development projects and community resistance in Latin America between 1850 and 1930. He is also at work on his second book, *Re-Engineering El Gran Canal: Environment, Progress, and Community in Nineteenth Century Mexico*, which is under contract with the University of Nebraska Press.

Give Back for Today's Students

Your support of the Institute for Ethnic Studies is critical to our success. Your tax-deductible contribution provides us with key resources to support our cultural programming, educational initiatives, and lecture series, increasing the campus's and public's understanding and knowledge of ethnic communities in Nebraska and beyond. Visit <https://ethnicstudies.unl.edu/give> to see our various contribution-worthy funds.



MARGARET HUETTL mhuettl2@unl.edu

Dr. Huettl has a recent article in the *Journal of Ethnohistory*,



"Treaty Stories: Reclaiming the Unbroken History of Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Sovereignty." Additionally, she achieved a

millennial dream by collaborating on the reboot of the **Oregon Trail video game on Apple Arcade**. Her work on this project was featured

on NPR; see <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/12/996007048/no-bows-and-arrows-and-no-broken-english-on-the-updated-oregon-trail>.

ALICE KANG akang2@unl.edu

Dr. Kang published two articles in 2021. The first, in the *Journal of Politics*, is titled **"Breaking the Judicial Glass Ceiling: The Appointment of Women to High Courts Worldwide"** and was co-authored with Maria Escobar-Lemmon (Texas A&M), Valerie Hoekstra, and Miki

Kittilson (both of ASU). The second, **"Litigating Socio-economic and Women's Rights in Benin's Constitutional Court"** was published in *African Affairs*, with co-author Susanna Wing of Haverford College.



Black Musicians & Liberation: IES Digital Panel—Feb. 2021

One of a number of digital/ZOOM events orchestrated by the Institute of Ethnic Studies faculty in the spring of 2021:

We are commemorating Black History Month by exploring the role of Black musicians in inspiring social change.

Hear our panel of diverse and distinguished Black scholars talk about the songs that have captured their hearts and still revitalize their imaginations for social justice. How do these musical legacies inform Black liberation today?



DAWNE Y. CURRY
Associate Professor of History and Ethnic Studies, University of Nebraska - Lincoln



ANDERS NEERGAARD
Professor of the Department of Culture and Society, Linköping University, Sweden



MARVIN LYNN
Dean of the College of Education, Portland State University



LORY DANCE
Associate Professor of Sociology & Ethnic Studies, University of Nebraska - Lincoln



BLACK MUSICIANS AND LIBERATION

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 25
7:00-8:30 PM CST
TINYURL.COM/1MTSTB7J**



a digital panel discussion hosted by:

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**INSTITUTE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES
AFRICAN & AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**



INGRID ROBYN irobyn2@unl.edu

Dr. Robyn's monograph *Márgenes del reverso: José Lezama Lima*



en la encrucijada vanguardista was published by the Almenara Press in 2020.

Dr. Robyn also has given several recent invited talks, including "*El poeta como*

pintor: notas sobre Lorenzo García Vega y José Lezama

Lima," at the *Symposium Poesía y Visualidad* (online, June 24-25, 2021) and "El modernismo brasileño," an open lecture as part of Prof. Alejandra Zambrano's Seminar on Brazilian Literature (*Universidad San Francisco de Quito*, online, April 15, 2021).



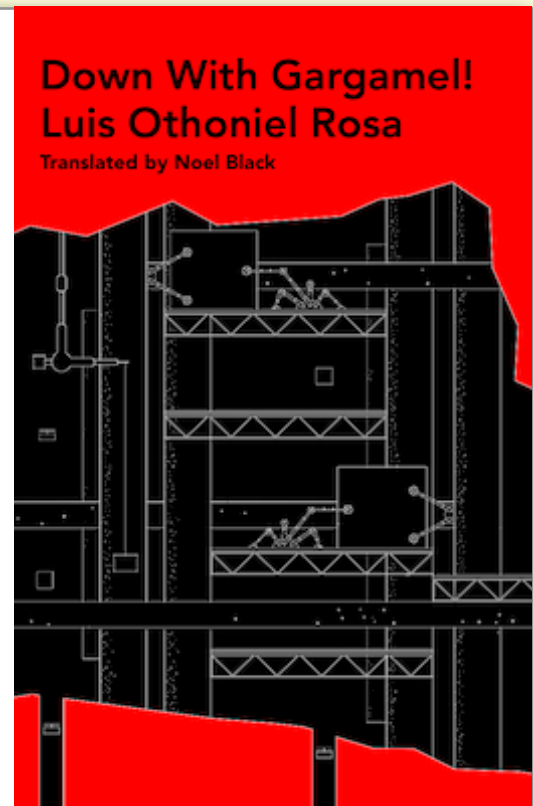
LUIS OTHONIEL ROSA lrosarodriguez2@unl.edu



Dr. Rosa's recent publications include a 2nd revised and expanded edition of his critical study *Comienzos para una estética anarquista: Borges con Macedonio* (Corregidor, August 2020) and *Down with*



Gargamel!, a translation (by Noel Black) of his 2017 novel *Caja de fractales* (Argos Books, September 2020).



GREG RUTLEDGE

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Dr. Rutledge gave an invited talk for the International Arts Talk Series sponsored by Chulalongkorn University of Bangkok, Thailand, on April 1st, 2021. A meditation on the George Floyd uprising, white supremacist politics, and the pandemic, his webinar, **"COVID-19 and the Plagued Human[ities]: Deep Time Reflections on Teaching Literature, Race, and Critical Race Theory,"** addressed the definitional crisis of the the *human* within the American Humanities and, by extension, the world.



CYNTHIA WILLIS ESQUEDA



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Dr. Willis Esqueda gave an invited webinar presentation on February 9, 2021 for **The Constance Baker Motley Speaker Series on Structural Racism and Inequality** with a focus on Language and the Law. The talk was sponsored by the Connecticut Bar Association (New Britain, CT). The Honorable Constance Baker Motely was the first Black female attorney to argue before the SCOTUS and to be appointed as a federal judge, appointed by President Jimmy Carter. She was co-counsel for Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education, along with Justice Thurgood Marshall. She argued the first case (Swain v. Alabama) that punctured a hole in the Whites-only jury service discrimination laws and practices. While conducting her MA research work on diversity and jury decision making, Dr. Willis Esqueda met Judge Motely, who was enthusiastic and encouraging.

In April Dr. Willis Esqueda was a presenter in three conference presentations for the Midwestern Psychological Association meeting held in Chicago, IL, through an on-line format. On April 22nd, 2021, Cynthia presented on **The**






Impact of DNA Evidence and Race on Culpability Decisions. On the same day, Kendra Quiroz (Ethnic Studies) and Dr. Willis Esqueda presented on **Stereotyping in a New Age of Conservatism.** Finally, on April 24, 2021, Daniel Nguyen and Dr. Willis Esqueda presented on **The Impact of Race/Ethnicity and LGBTQ+ Identity on Well-Being.**

IES Spring Celebration Poster—March 2021

The Spring Celebration featured Lakota poet Tiffany Midge:

ETHNIC STUDIES SPRING CELEBRATION

Colloquium on Racial Justice

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 @UNLEthnicStu
 ethnicstudies.unl.edu

What is Indigenous Sovereignty, and Why Does it Matter Now?

Wed. Mar. 10 | Via Zoom | 5-6 pm CST

Register here: https://unl.zoom.us/join/register/WN_3wvjVzjQx-D9uoG6Vzwug

Dr. Margaret Huettl, Assistant Professor, Native American Studies & History
 Jessica Shoemaker, J.D., Professor, Nebraska College of Law
 Dr. Colette Yellow Robe, Academic Retention Specialist, Student Support Services
 Dr. Tom Gannon, Associate Professor, Native American Studies and English

Attack of the Fifty Foot (Lakota) Woman with invited guest Tiffany Midge

Th. Mar. 11 | Via Zoom | 5 pm CST

Register here:
https://unl.zoom.us/join/register/WN_MNcEkzSRQzj0sWjxNoUKg

Tiffany Midge is a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, the author of the memoir *Bury My Heart at Chuck E. Cheese's* (University of Nebraska, 2019), and the recipient of the Pushcart Prize, the Kenyon Review Earthworks Indigenous Poetry Prize, a Western Heritage Award, and a Simons Public Humanities fellowship. She formerly taught at Northwest Indian College and is now a freelance writing instructor.



Social Justice and Intellectual Allyship: When the Culture You Teach is Not Your Own

Fri. Mar. 12 | Via Zoom | 12-1 pm CST

Register here: https://unl.zoom.us/join/register/WN_-666_sFOSfCPQlnKXBGWjw

Dr. Alice Kang, Associate Professor, African Studies and Political Science
 Dr. Trey Andrews, Assistant Professor, U.S. Latinx Studies and Psychology
 Dr. Luis Rosa, Assistant Professor, U.S. Latinx and Latin American Studies and Modern Languages
 Dr. Patrick Jones, Associate Professor, African American Studies and History



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“In Our Grit, Our Glory.”

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FALL 2021

