San Jose State University
SJSU ScholarWorks

National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Annual Conference

2002-2004: 29th, 30th, & 31st Annual Conferences Proceedings

Introduction to Selected Papers from the 2002, 2003 and 2004 NACCS Conference Proceedings

Ed A. Muñoz
University of Wyoming

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/naccs

Part of the Chicano Studies Commons, and the Ethnic Studies Commons

Ed A. Muñoz, "Introduction to Selected Papers from the 2002, 2003 and 2004 NACCS Conference Proceedings" (January 20, 2011). *National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Annual Conference.* Paper 1.
http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/naccs/2002-2004/Proceedings/1

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences at SJSU ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Annual Conference by an authorized administrator of SJSU ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@sjsu.edu.

INTRODUCTION

In 1989, as a non-traditional undergraduate student, I attended my first National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Conference (NACCS) at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles, California. I did not know then that I would eventually become a Chican@ Studies scholar, but I did know from that day forward that I would strive to incorporate a Chican@ Studies perspective into my future research activities. Needless to say, this commitment served me well as I successfully progressed through my graduate studies in Sociology and through two faculty appointments. Probably most important for me over the years has been the gradual and ongoing intellectual sustenance I received from every conference attended, paper presented, and panel session organized. Because of this, it has been an honor to serve the organization as the editor for selected papers presented in this publication from the 2002, 2003, and 2004 NACCS proceedings.

Organizational and budgetary constraints precluded individual annual publications for 2002 and 2003, as well as impacting the number of papers that could be published now. In any case, a call for papers was sent out shortly after the 2004 annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Twenty-one papers were considered for publication. The pool

was split in terms of the number of males and females submitting papers. Almost half of the prospective authors were from California. The only other states with multiple submissions were Texas and Arizona, with the others coming from states included in the Pacific Northwest and Midwest FOCOs. Almost half of the paper submissions came from students, with another fourth coming from assistant professors. Not surprisingly, the majority of the papers were from the more recent 2004 proceedings in Albuquerque.

In consultation with a four-member editorial committee, I implemented a paper selection process that consisted of blind manuscript reviews similar to a refereed journal process. I distributed papers to committee members attempting to match papers with reviewers' respective disciplinary expertise. Each paper was distributed to two readers with instructions to accept a paper as is; with minor revisions; with moderate revisions; or to reject the paper. I acted as the final arbiter on papers that returned with non-concurring evaluations. Of the eleven papers accepted, two were accepted as is; seven with minor revisions; and two with moderate revisions. Five of the authors are males, whereas 6 are females. Four papers are from California, three are from Texas, and four are from the states in the Rocky Mountain, Northwest, and Midwest FOCOs. One paper is from an undergraduate student, five are from graduate students, and five are from tenure-track and tenured faculty. Seven of the papers are from the 2004 Albuquerque proceedings; two are from the 2003 Los Angeles proceedings; one from the 2002 Chicago proceedings; and one that encompasses all three proceedings. The interdisciplinary nature of the field is evidenced by a wide range of topics from both the humanities and social sciences.

Papers are presented by annual proceedings in reverse chronological order. From the 2004 Albuquerque conference, "Building the New Majority: The Many Faces of Chican@s," we begin with the Frederick A. Cervantes Graduate Student Premio winner. In "Re-Membering the Body: Spiritual Genealogy, Collective Memory, and Lost Histories in Delilah Montoya's Codex Delilah," Ann Marie Leimer explains and analyzes Codex Delilah, Six-Deer: Journey from Mexicatl to Chicana, a work produced by photographer and printmaker Delilah Montoya in conjunction

with the late poet and playwright Cecilio García-Camarillo. Leimer discusses how "Montoya uses memory to weave complex, vibrant histories from a fragmented, partially remembered past… and how she retrieves and re-constructs the bodies of knowledge lost due to European contact through the creation of a spiritual genealogy."

Norma A. Valenzuela follows with another cultural critique entitled, "Lourdes Portillo's Development of a Chicana Feminist Film Aesthetic: *After the Earthquake*, *Las Madres*, and *Señorita Extraviada*." Valenzuela, a Ph.D. graduate student at Arizona State University, focuses on three Lourdes Portillo films that address important Chicana political questions in a female environment. Valenzuela asserts the groundbreaking nature of such films, acknowledging that Chicano films have historically focused on patriarchal discourse and dramatized conflicts that needed to be fought by men. Ultimately, this paper is a tribute to Portillo for advancing Chicana voices and adding a new perspective to cinema historically dominated by men.

University of Texas History Ph.D. candidate, Lilia Raquel D. Rosas, ensues with her critical study, "On Grinding Corn and Plaiting Hair: Placing Tejanas and Black Texan Women in the Progressive Era." Rosas attempts to re(un)cover the positionality of Tejanas and black Texan women in the history of the United States. Focusing on the participation of African-American and ethnic Mexican women in sex work and the social movements against prostitution and white slavery in Texas, Rosas engages the reader in a discussion that "interweaves the theory, historiography, and history necessary for complicating our understanding of sexuality, race, and reform in the United States."

Three papers with a sociological focus begin with, "Interlingualism: The Language of Chicanos/as," by California State University, Stanislaus Chican@ Studies assistant professor, Lilia De Katzew. In this paper, De Katzew breaks down the origins of interlingualism—a form of language practiced by Chicanos that reflects "their cultural, educational, socioeconomic, and geo-historical experiences." Professor De Katzew is critical of individuals who work with Chican@s but discount their vernacular forms of communication. She makes the case that interlingualism is a valid

form of communication that educators and others who work with Chican@ populations in the Southwest should respect and be familiar with.

The 2004 Frederick A. Cervantes Undergraduate Student Premio winner from Oregon State University, Ricardio Larios, presents a sociological analysis on immigrant adaptation. In "'Ay dolor, ya me volviste a dar': Loss and Cultural Mourning among Mexican Origin Immigrants to Oregon," Larios explores how Mexican immigrants cope with separation from their homelands through a case study of the soccer field in Salem, Oregon. In particular, Larios finds that the soccer field is a place of cultural mourning, grief that is symptomatic of immigration. At the same time, the soccer field is a place for easing the process of acculturation and integration as immigrants oftentimes find themselves in contact with American mainstream soccer enthusiasts.

Jesse Diaz Jr., a University of California Riverside Sociology Ph.D. candidate, adds new empirical evidence to the gang literature in his timely paper, "Chicano Gang Membership, Familism, and Social Support: A Critical Examination of Conflicting Theoretical Models." Diaz completed a study of 52 post-adolescent, self-identified Chicano gang members in Southern California. Findings demonstrated support for a surrogate-family theoretical approach in explaining post-adolescent gang membership. As adolescent gang members matured they sought social support from both family and peers.

Historical analysis is highlighted in "The Political Repression of a Chicano Movement Activist: The Plight of Francisco E. 'Kiko' Martinez," by University of New Mexico History Ph.D. candidate, James Barrera. In particular, Barrera describes COINTELPRO strategies used by local, state, and federal authorities to harass Kiko Martinez into Mexican exile. After his return to the United States, Martinez' subsequent acquittal of apparently trumped up terrorist charges in Denver, Colorado demonstrates the extremes that government officials used to silence Chicano Movement activists.

The 2003 NACCS Los Angeles conference entitled, "No More Wars:

Sovereignties, Sexualities, and Human Rights," yielded two papers dealing with Chican@ education and union organizing. California State University Northridge Chicano Studies assistant professor, Rosa Furumoto, examines parents' school participation in "The Wars in the Schools: Mexicana Mothers' Collective Cultural Capital." Her case study findings contradict deficit models that claim Chican@ parents have a limited interest in their children's schooling. Furumoto argues that "we [should] re-conceptualize Latin@ parents as the holders of highly valuable collective cultural capital that can serve as a powerful force for positive change in schools and communities."

In "Changing Agricultural Labor Laws in California," California State University Chico Chicano Studies assistant professor Susan Marie Green, offers a first-hand peregrino's account of the United Farm Worker's 165 mile march through the San Joaquin Valley in August of 2002. The purpose of this march was to encourage the Governor to sign California Senate Bill 1736 into effect, which would provide an enforcement mechanism for the Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA) of 1975, that recognized farm workers' rights to organize. Although the Governor did not sign the bill, he did sign replacement bills SB 1156 and AB 2596. Green informs readers that the farm workers movement is alive and well.

Indiana University Northwest Minority Studies assistant professor Raoul Contreras, provides an essay on, "Chicanismo, Patriotism, September 11th, 2001: A NACCS Political Stance on the War." This reflective essay is rooted in activities of the COMPAS caucus that took place at the 2002 Chicago conference, "El Pueblo Unido…: Strength in Unity," and which continued through the 2003 Los Angeles and 2004 Albuquerque conferences. Their activities addressed issues related to the Bush Administration's War on Terror. Contreras asserts that NACCS' ideological dimension and political identity mandates a stance in opposition to the War on Terror, and furthermore calls for the continued integration between scholarship and activism in order to bring a halt to the violence that is disproportionately levied upon people of color.

Finally, University of Houston History professor Guadalupe San Miguel illustrates Chican@ agency in his paper, "When Tejano Ruled the Airwaves: The Rise and Fall of KQQK in Houston, Texas." Originally, KQQK was a bilingual radio station that played solamente Tejano music. After a series of programming changes that favored a monolingual Spanish demographic, KQQK fell from the top of the Latino radio market in Houston due to the loss of a broader and larger bilingual fan base. San Miguel associates KQQK's fall with their apparent failure to understand the importance that a hybrid Tejano identity and culture play in the lives of Texas Mexicans.

Of course, the publication of the proceedings would not have been possible without the rigorous work of an editorial committee. I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Norma Cantu, University of Texas at San Antonio, Dr. Sylvia Fuentes, University of Northern Illinois, Dr. Susan Green, California State University Chico, and Jose Moreno, Michigan State University. Their scholarly dedication is reflected in the quality of the papers. From the NACCS organization, a special thank you goes to Dr. Reynaldo Macias, University of California Los Angeles, Dr. Julia Curry and Kathryn Blackmer Reyes, San Jose State University, for their unconditional support for the project's completion. From the University of Wyoming, I thank College of Arts and Sciences Dean B. Oliver Walter for a basic research grant that helped move the project forward. Finalmente, un gran abrazo to Adrian H. Molina for providing first-rate editorial assistance during a crucial time in my professional career at the University of Wyoming.