Latino/a Philosopher
a national symposium

Stony Brook University
15-16 March 2013
Latino/a Philosopher

Latinos/as have become the largest minority in the United States, accounting for 16% of the population. In some states they constitute half or more than half of the population. The Census Bureau projects that by the year 2050 Latinos/as will make up nearly 25% of the U.S. population. Yet, they account for less than 5% of the doctorates in philosophy earned over the last decade. This symposium aims to address the challenges that these numbers may suggest. Most importantly, the symposium aims to bring together a group of Latino/a philosophers to engage in a discussion about what they mean to the discipline and future developments in 'American' philosophy.
Welcome

Before philosophy is a noun, the name for a discipline, the title of a program, it is first and foremost an activity, a love of wisdom, a quest, and a vocation. But only persons, subjects, agents, humans engage in this activity, this love, this quest, this devotion to the vocation is philosophy. Before there is Latino/a Philosophy, there are Latino/a Philosophers. I am honored and delighted to welcome you all to this symposium, the first of its kind, in which we will be meeting, conversing, dialoguing and hearing from some world renown and some up and coming young Latino/a philosophers. This symposium is deliberately organized to provide ample opportunity for engagement with the work that our special guests have done for this event. Enjoy two days of philosophizing under benevolent gaze of our daimon, Socrates.

Eduardo Mendieta
Symposium at a Glance

FRIDAY 15 MARCH

2:00-2:30
**Eduardo Mendieta**  
*Welcome and Introduction*

2:45-3:45
**Jorge J. E. Gracia**  
*The Impact of Ethnicity and Race on Latino/a Philosophy*

3:45-4:45
**Grant J. Silva**  
*The Revolt of the (Latino/a) Masses: On the Nature of Democracy with a Nonwhite Majority*

5:00-6:00
**Reception**

7:00-9:00
**Dinner**  
Mirabelle Tavern

SATURDAY 16 MARCH

8:30-9:00
**Coffee and Bagels**

9:00-10:00
**José Jorge Mendoza**  
*The Curious Case of Latino/as in the United States*

10:00-11:00
**Manuel Vargas**  
*Implicit Bias, Philosophy, Latinos?*

11:15-12:15
**Rocio Zambrana**  
*Latino/a Philosopher and the Case of Puerto Rican Identity*

12:15-1:15
**Ofelia Schutte**  
*Latinos/os Roots in Philosophy: From Authenticity to Intersectionality*

1:15-2:30
**Lunch**  
Room 211

2:30-3:30
**Mariana Ortega**  
*De las otras: On Intersections, Internal Exclusions and Queer Latinidad*

3:45-4:45
**Gregory Pappas**  
*The ‘demographic challenge’ in philosophy and the quest for a philosophy sensitive to context: some lessons from Latin American Philosophy and Latin Jazz*

4:45-6:00
**Linda Martín Alcoff**  
*Decolonizing Philosophy*

6:00-8:00
**Dinner**  
Curry Club
Welcome and Introduction
Eduardo Mendieta
Stony Brook University

Note: all sessions will be held in Harriman 214.

The Impact of Ethnicity and Race on Latino/a Philosophy
Jorge J. E. Gracia
State University of New York at Buffalo

Jorge J. E. Gracia is a Distinguished Professor in both the Department of philosophy and the Department of Comparative Literature at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is author of fourteen books, some of which include *Hispanic/Latino Identity: A Philosophical Perspective* (Blackwell, 2000), *Latinos in America: Philosophy and Social Identity* (Blackwell, 2000), and *Painting Borges: Philosophy Interpreting Art Interpreting Literature* (SUNY Press, 2012). He received a National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship for 1981-82. In 1992, he received the John N. Findlay Prize in Metaphysics, which was awarded by the Metaphysical Society of America for his book *Individuality: An Essay on the Foundations of Metaphysics* (SUNY Press, 1988). The Aquinas Medal was awarded to him by the University of Dallas in 2002 and by the American Catholic Philosophical Association in 2011. In 2003, he received the University at Buffalo Teaching and Learning Award. He has served as director of the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute and for the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar. He was listed as one of the forty prominent philosophers in the history of Latin America, from 1500 to the present, in the Blackwell Companion to Latin American Philosophy (2010).

The Revolt of the (Latino/a) Masses:
On the Nature of Democracy with a Nonwhite Majority
Grant J. Silva
Marquette University

Grant J. Silva is Assistant Professor of philosophy at Marquette University. Specializing in Latin American philosophy, the philosophy of race and political philosophy, Grant received his doctorate from the University of Oregon (2011). Born and raised in East Los Angeles, Grant grew up in an area where law, ethnicity, race and citizenship-status often intersect. He credits the 1992 Rodney King L.A. riots with igniting a profound concern with racism, inequality and the power of ideas. He is currently working on a manuscript entitled *The Political Nature of Latin American Philosophy: Nation-Building, Nation-Fixing, Nation-Transcending*, in addition to several articles on the problem of democratic exclusion, the dynamic nature of racism and the challenges that undocumented immigration and the militarization of the border pose to mainstream political philosophy.
The Curious Case of Latino/as in the United States

José Jorge Mendoza
Worcester State University

José Jorge Mendoza is an Assistant Professor of philosophy at Worcester State University and is on the executive editorial committee of Radical Philosophy Review. He has a B.A., from the University of California at San Diego, an M.A., from San Francisco State University, and a Ph.D., from the University of Oregon. His areas of specialization are in moral and political philosophy, philosophy of race, and Latin American philosophy. His research is on issues of global justice and in particular on the tension between democratic autonomy (i.e., a peoples’ right to self-determination) and universal human rights. Recently, his focus has been on the issue of immigration with the purpose of trying to provide a philosophical defense of immigrant rights.

Implicit Bias, Philosophy, Latinos?

Manuel Vargas
University of San Francisco

Manuel Vargas is Professor of philosophy at the University of San Francisco. He co-authored Four Views on Free Will (Blackwell, 2007) with John Martin Fischer, Robert Kane, and Derk Pereboom. His book Building Better Beings: A Theory of Moral Responsibility (Oxford University Press) is forthcoming. His research has been recognized with a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship & Research Award, the first American Philosophical Association Prize in Latin American Thought, and a fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center. He has also held the National Endowment for the Humanities Chair at the University of San Francisco.

Latino/a Philosopher and the Case of Puerto Rican Identity

Rocío Zambrana
University of Oregon

Rocio Zambrana is Assistant Professor of philosophy at the University of Oregon. Among her publications is the volume Expression in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century German Philosophy, special issue of Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal 27:2 (2006). She is currently working on a book project entitled Hegel’s Theory of Determinacy. She has been a recipient of the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Research Fellowship and the Hans Jonas Award in Philosophy for her dissertation The Logic of Critique: Hegel, Honneth, and Dialectical Reversibility.
Latinas/os Roots in Philosophy: From Authenticity to Intersectionality
Ofelia Schutte
University of South Florida
Ofelia Schutte is Professor Emeritus of Women’s Studies and Philosophy at the University of South Florida. Her areas of teaching and research are feminist theory, Latin American philosophy and social thought, philosophy and culture, and Continental Philosophy. She is the author of Beyond Nihilism: Nietzsche without Masks and Cultural Identity and Social Liberation in Latin American Thought. Her current interests are postcolonial theory, feminist transnational thought, and philosophy of philosophy. A special issue of Hypatia was devoted to her work.

De las otras: On Intersections, Internal Exclusions and Queer Latinidad
Mariana Ortega
John Carroll University
Mariana Ortega is a Distinguished Professor of philosophy at John Carroll University. She is co-editor of Constructing the Nation: A Race and Nationalism Reader (SUNY, 2009) with Linda Alcoff. Her research focuses on issues of self and sociality, Heideggerian phenomenology, visual representations of race, and the question of identity, and she has published articles in journals such as Hypatia, International Journal of Philosophical Studies, International Philosophical Quarterly and Radical Philosophy Review. She is the current holder of the Shula Chair in Philosophy at John Carroll University. In 2005 she received the Culicchia Award for Teaching Excellence. She is currently working on a monograph that elaborates a notion of self as multiplicitous subjectivity in light of existential phenomenological views and Latina feminisms.

The ‘demographic challenge’ in philosophy and the quest for a philosophy sensitive to context: some lessons from Latin American Philosophy and Latin Jazz
Gregory Pappas
Texas A & M University
Gregory Fernando Pappas is an Associate Professor in the philosophy department at Texas A & M University. Some of his publications include John Dewey’s Ethics: Democracy as Experience (Indiana, 2008) and the edited collection Pragmatism in the Americas (Fordham, 2011). He is the creator and editor-in-chief of The Inter-American Journal of Philosophy. In 2010 he received the Latin American Thought Prize, awarded by the American Philosophical Association, as well as the William James Prize and the College of Liberal Arts Research Award from Texas A & M University. He is a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship recipient.
Decolonizing Philosophy

Linda Martín Alcoff
Hunter College; CUNY Graduate Center

Linda Martín Alcoff is a Professor of philosophy at both Hunter College and the CUNY Graduate Center. She is the author of *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self* (Oxford, 2006) and *Real Knowing: New Versions of Coherence Theory* (Cornell, 1996); She also co-edited *Thinking from the Underside of History: Enrique Dussel's Philosophy of Liberation* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2000) with Eduardo Mendieta. She is co-editor of *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*. She has held an ACLS Fellowship, a Society for the Humanities at Cornell University Fellowship, and she was named one of Syracuse University’s first Meredith Professors for Teaching Excellence. She is vice president of the American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, and has also served on its Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, Program Committee, Committee on the Status of Women, and as Chair of the Committee on Hispanics/Latinos. She was named the Distinguished Woman in Philosophy for 2005 by the Society for Women in Philosophy, and in 2006 she was named one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in the United States by Hispanic Business magazine. In September 2011 she was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Oslo. Her book *Visible Identities* won the Frantz Fanon Award in 2009.

Thank You

Eduardo Mendieta, the convener and organizer, would like to express his deepest gratitude to all the symposium speakers, but also to Kathleen-Ann Amella, Alissa Betz, Paul Firbas, Lori Gallegos de Castillo, Rolando Perez, Victoriano Roncero-López, Roberto Sanchez, and all the graduate students who volunteered to help along: Eva Boodman, Jeffrey Epstein, Nathifa Green, Adam Israel, and Kevin Jobe.

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Attendees: If you need a disability related accommodation, please contact Alissa Betz at 632-7590, or e-mail her at: alissa.betz@stonybrook.edu. Please allow a minimum of 7 days advance notice so that we may accommodate you.