

Welcome to the NECLAS Newsletter!

We warmly welcome you to the New England Council of Latin American Studies' newsletter! Founded in 1970, NECLAS is an inclusive community that brings together scholars, researchers, teachers, activists, students, and the general public with an interest in Latin American and Latinx studies. Focused on the New England region, NECLAS works to encourage more effective training, teaching, and research related to Latin American and Latinx issues, while facilitating greater exchanges within the region through lectures, fora, seminars, conferences, prizes, and publications.

Released quarterly, our newsletter aims to keep you up-to-date with our organization's activities, and provides a platform for the dissemination of tools and information relevant to those engaged with Latin American and Latinx issues such as upcoming conferences, recent publications in the field, job openings, etc. It is a space that fosters communication and collaboration, and creates community.

We invite you to check our website <u>http://neclas.lat/</u> to learn more about our organization and join us, if you are not a member already.

Should you require more information or should you desire to submit information for inclusion in our newsletter, please contact us at: newsletter, please contact us at

See you in our next issue!

Bridging Knowledges, Technologies and Cultures in Latin America and the Caribbean

Annual Meeting

November 10-11, 2023 Worcester Polytechnic Institute

The New England Council of Latin American Studies (NECLAS) warmly invites you to our annual meeting at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, MA, on Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11, 2023.

This year, the NECLAS conference seeks to explore the challenges and possibilities of bridging different modes of knowledge production across technological systems and cultures in Global Latin America and the Caribbean. This approach aims to provoke broader dialogues about the role of new methodological, epistemological, and socio-political frameworks needed to recognize, foster, and learn from multiple ways of knowing and doing. It aspires to highlight the role of Latin America and the Caribbean in local, transregional, and global processes to support linkages across scholarship and activism within and beyond this region's traditional geopolitical and cultural limits.

Topics of particular interest to this conference include, but are not limited to: (1) challenges of climate change adaptation strategies and climate reparations, and cultural production emerging from these strategies; (2) cultural politics of migrations and the circulation of bodies, knowledge, animals, plants, technological systems, policies, and responses to them; (3) roles of social media in social movements and democracy; (4) relations between technology and religion in emerging political ideologies and organizations; (5) how particular forms of knowledge and technology production enable or contest intersectional modes of oppression; (6) applications of scientific and technical expertise in the reproduction or addressing of sociocultural inequalities; (7) technologies of health, environmentalism, land use, and livelihoods; (8) community-led socio-technological innovations and responses to challenges in agriculture, energy, transportation, climate change, and conservation; (9) roles of indigenous and traditional knowledge systems in local and global politics; (10) lessons from the links between art, technologies, and activism in global governance; and (11) crossing literal and metaphorical borders in film, literature, and other cultural expressions.

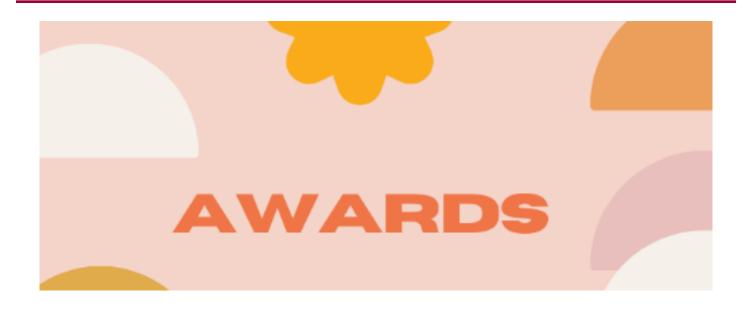
The conference welcomes proposals outside the specific theme, including those related to U.S. Latino/a/x communities. Papers and panel presentations may be in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. We welcome submissions and proposals for posters, panels, roundtables, professionalization workshops, and book presentations from across disciplines in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, visual and plastic arts, sociocultural linguistics, and translation as well as from the fields of law, business, public policy, social work, public health, and

education, among others. We especially encourage faculty members to organize undergraduate student panels based on capstone projects or theses that tackle relevant conference topics and issues.

Founded in 1970, NECLAS is an inclusive community that welcomes scholars, researchers, teachers, activists, students, and the general public with interests in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a/x Studies. Focused on the New England region, NECLAS works to encourage more effective training, teaching, and research related to Latin American and Latino/a/x issues, while facilitating exchanges within the region through lectures, fora, seminars, conferences, prizes, and publications.

Please send your abstracts and proposals to <u>neclas.sec@gmail.com</u> by July 15.

Please submit a membership fee (<u>http://neclas.lat/membership/</u>) and conference fee (<u>http://neclas.lat/conference/</u>) in order to participate in the conference.



The New England Council on Latin American Studies (NECLAS) invites submissions for its annual prizes in the following categories:

Best Book (Marysa Navarro Best Book Prize) Best Article (Joseph T. Criscenti Best Article Prize) Best Dissertation Best Digital Scholarship/Pedagogy Project

Submission Guidelines

The submission deadline is Saturday, July 1, 2023.

- Authors working in or defending their work (for dissertations) at a institutions of higher education in New England and NY; OR
- Authors currently living in the NECLAS area of New England and NY; AND
- Authors who are current members of NECLAS

http://neclas.lat/prizes/

NECLAS at LASA



After three years of virtual conferences, the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) held a hybrid in-person/online conference from May 24-27, 2023 in the beautiful waterfront city of Vancouver, Canada. We wanted to share some highlights from several of our NECLAS members who participated in LASA 2023, América Latina y el Caribe: Pensar, Representar y Luchar por los Derechos. NECLAS President Elizabeth Rivero (U.S Coast Guard Academy) presented a paper on "Mujeres, memoria y resistencia: tres documentales uruguayos de la posdictadura" as part of a panel focused on "Memories of Resistance in Latin American Film", and NECLAS Vice President, Mary Ann Mahoney (Central Connecticut State University) attended LASA and participated in the Center Directors committee meeting. María Alessandra Woolson (University of Vermont) organized and chaired four sessions sponsored by the Environment section, and she presented at the section's featured roundtable "CONO SUR: thinking creatively to mobilize for socio-ecological transformation." Professor Woolson has played a significant role in LASA as Chair of the Environment Section for the past five years, organizing the first ever publication award for the section, among many other activities. Paul Posner (Clark University) gave a presentation on "In Search of Social Democracy in Latin America: Chile & Uruguay in Comparative Perspective" as part of a panel about Chile's political and economic systems through comparative approaches. Daniel Chávez (University of New Hampshire) presented his paper on "A Series of their Own, Editorial Novaro's Comics on Women as Political and Cultural Heroes and the Feminist Agenda of the 1960s" and served as a discussant for

a panel on "Comunicación y cultura popular." Michelle Farrell (Fairfield University), Bridget Franco (College of the Holy Cross), and Barbara Zecchi (University of Massachusetts) participated in a panel on "Video-ensayo: teoría, praxis, y pedagogía" sponsored by LASA's Film Studies section. More details from LASA 2023 available at: <u>http://lasaweb.org/en/lasa2023/final-program</u>. Please be on the lookout for information about LASA's upcoming continental congress on África y América Latina: Diálogos y Conexiones from November 15-18, 2023 (Ghana & virtual), as well as LASA 2024 to be held in Bogotá, Colombia next summer!



Left to right: Carla Giaudrone, Elizabeth Rivero and Mary Ann Mahony at the Vancouver Waterfront during LASA 2023. Photo courtesy of Matt Grohgans.

Latin American Studies Center Directors Panel at LASA

FRIDAY, MAY 26: 578 // SEC – LASA Center Directors Section Roundtable – Friday, 01:45pm - 03:15pm, and 842 //

The Round Table Discussion sponsored by the LASA Latin American Studies Center Directors' Section entitled "Promoting the rights of minority and vulnerable populations through Centers for the Study of Latin America: Past Experiences and Future Projects" brought together nine Latin American Studies Center directors to share information about the ways that their programs promote the rights of minority and vulnerable populations, react to the current political backlash in Florida and other challenging U.S. political contexts, and about how these Centers interface with Latino and Latinx

programs. The discussion included many ideas that NECLAS members may be interested in, including several at major research one institutions and another at a regional comprehensive institution. The Mellon Foundation funded projects included one at UT/Austin that is training students to use the writing of Latin American writers and pedagogues to teach literature and writing in Spanish in prisons to Spanish-speaking prisoners in credit bearing courses. The second program, the Dispossession in the Americas Project at PENN, brings two graduate students a year from marginalized communities in Latin America to PENN for a summer of study and research. FIU's Global Indigenous Forum brings indigenous people from Latin America to the United States for public talks all over south Florida. Faculty and students at Calstate LA, a comprehensive regional university whose students are 75% Latino and primarily working class, are working to help Latino/a/e students at the university and in the community "relearn what we have taught them to forget." Together, they co-create conferences and other programs under the title of "Liberated Futures." Vanderbilt University has combined its Latin American and Latino/a/x Studies Centers and Programs and expanded its scope to include the Caribbean to make critical field corrections and connections. They have prioritized hiring Latinx faculty, including a specialist in Latinx education to work with the local school systems. When the presentations were concluded, there was a lively discussion of how Latin American Studies Centers could support Latina/o/x/e students.

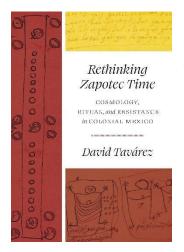
A subsequent panel (842 // HIS – Panel – Saturday, 01:45pm - 03:15pm), Historia desde los márgenes: comparaciones entre Colombia y Brasil, allowed four of the graduate students from Brazil and Colombia in Penn's Dispossession in the Americas Project, part of the Mellon Foundation's Just Futures Initiative, to discuss the research they have developed, in part through their participation in the Penn/Melon program. The two panels together offer interesting avenues for Latin American Studies Centers to engage in strong academic study and social change at the same time.

Latin American or Latino/a/x Studies Program or Center directors who would like to organize a similar discussion for NECLAS 2024, should contact Mary Ann Mahony, NECLAS Vice President at mahonym@ccsu.edu.

2022 NECLAS Prizes

A long-standing tradition, every year at its annual conference NECLAS presents the winners of its several prizes. The prizes ceremony is a celebration of the work of dedicated scholars who, within their varied disciplines, push forward and enrich the field of Latin American and Latinx studies. We now want to share information about the works and authors who received prizes at the 2022 NECLAS conference hosted by Central Connecticut State University on November 4-5. We encourage all of you to apply for our 2023 prizes!!!

The Marysa Navarro Best Book Prize



David Tavárez Rethinking Zapotec Time: Cosmology, Ritual, and Resistance in Colonial Mexico University of Texas Press, 2022

In Rethinking Zapotec Time: Cosmology, Ritual, and Resistance in Colonial Mexico, David Tavárez writes with depth and originality as he engages with challenging colonial epistemologies, yet his work remains intelligible to those outside of his primary fields of inquiry. Undertaking truly interdisciplinary research, across decades, Tavárez serves as caretaker for delicate cultural artifacts and the histories they represent, while he builds

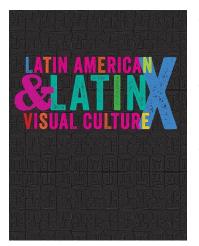
varying scales of contextualization and analysis around them to emphasize their wider importance. This book unearths new understandings of indigenous culture in Mesoamerica in relation to (but still maintaining some distance from) colonial constructs. It is a clear demonstration of subaltern agency, if by indigenous elites and intellectuals, whose resistance to and engagement with colonizers and colonial institutions becomes especially vivid when viewed through an indigenous lens.



A first-generation college graduate from Ciudad Juárez, David Tavárez is a linguistic anthropologist and a historian of Latin America. His research focuses on language, culture and history; Mesoamerican societies; religion and ritual; colonial Nahuatl and Zapotec sources; Indigenous intellectuals; and native Christianities and the suppression of Indigenous religions. He is the author of the books *Rethinking Zapotec Time* (2022), *The Invisible War* (2011), and 60+ peer-reviewed articles and chapters, the editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Ritual Language* (forthcoming) and *Words and Worlds Turned Around* (2017), and a co-author of Painted Words (2016), and *Chimalpahin's Conquest* (2010).

His research has been funded by awards from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Science Foundation.

The Joseph T. Criscenti Best Article Award



Alanna S. Radlo-Dzur, Mackenzie Cooley, Emily Kaplan, Leah Bright, E. Keats Webb, Mary Elizabeth Haude, Tana Villafana, and Amanda K. Satorius "The Tira of Don Martín: A Living Nahua Chronicle" *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture* (2021) 3 (3): 7-37 <u>https://doi.org/10.1525/lavc.2021.3.3.7</u>

According to analysis by Alanna Radlo-Dzur, Mackenzie Cooley and their co-authors, the Don Martín referenced in "The Tira of Don Martín" was likely a child of Indigenous lords and bestowed with a Spanish name in the first decades following the installation of Viceroyalty of New Spain in

1535. His tira, or strip, is among thousands of similar wills and property records written in Nahuatl that remain. However, unlike these other artifacts, Don Martín's bequest eschews Christian references typical of Spanish bureaucracy of the time "in favor of Mesoamerican conceptions of heredity that were tied into the pictographic representational norms formalized in the region long before" the Spanish conquest. Over time this original meaning—and the links to Indigenous culture the evolving document continued to reflect—were lost. We commend the authors for their highly collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, coupled with their employ of sophisticated methodology, all of which have facilitated the recovery of this document's original meaning and thus contributed to the revitalization of Nahuatl language and culture. As the authors note, "the tira was meant to be read by locals to whom it had meaning, used as proof in negotiating a heritage that was, in turn, deeply linked to place." Like them, we hope that a new generation of readers will be able to connect with the Indigenous conception of place that this article's analysis helps to illuminate.

(Authors bios posted on https://doi.org/10.1525/lavc.2021.3.3.7)

Alanna S. Radlo-Dzur is a research specialist at the Getty Research Institute and a PhD candidate in the History of Art at Ohio State University. Her dissertation considers the graphic depiction of invisible concepts—from the sensorium to the divine—in Postclassic and early colonial Nahua painting traditions of Central Mexico.

Mackenzie Cooley is an assistant professor of history at Hamilton College. Cooley's dissertation won the 2019 Cappadocia Prize for Best Unpublished Manuscript from the Society of Italian Historical Studies. Her articles appear in *Isis, Journal of Medieval Worlds*, and *Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies*. Cooley's first monograph concerns animal-human relationships, the history of biology, and race in the Renaissance world.

Emily Kaplan is an objects conservator at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. She focuses on the Latin American and archaeological collections, scientific analysis of collections, and preventive conservation. She is currently coediting a multidisciplinary book on q'eros. Kaplan holds an MA from Queen's University in Canada and a BA from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Leah A. Bright is an objects conservator at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Leah was a 2017-19 Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Objects Conservation at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. She holds an MS from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation, specializing in objects conservation and preventive conservation.

E. Keats Webb is an imaging scientist at the Museum Conservation Institute, where she uses scientific and computational imaging to aid in the research and conservation of the Smithsonian collections. Keats holds a PhD from the University of Brighton and an MRes from the University College London, specializing in imaging and heritage science.

Mary Elizabeth Haude is a paper conservator at the Library of Congress. She performs treatments and materials research on the collections, specializing in sixteenth-century Mexican manuscripts. She holds an MLIS with an advanced certificate in conservation from the University of Texas at Austin.

Tana Villafana is a chemist at the Library of Congress working mainly with conservators to study collection items using a variety of noninvasive spectroscopy techniques and to further develop methodologies for pigment identification. Tana holds a PhD from Duke University, specializing in nonlinear laser spectroscopy and spectroscopic imaging.

Amanda K. Satorius is a preservation science specialist at the Library of Congress, where she performs material science research to identify paper composition and historical pigments using portable, nondestructive instrumentation. Amanda holds an MSc in conservation practice from Cardiff University, Wales, and bachelor's degrees in chemistry and art history.

The Best Dissertation Prize

Hannah Greenwald,

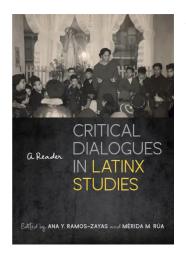
Now I Walk on Foreign Soil: Settler Colonialism in Argentina's Southern Borderlands, 1867-1899 Ph.D. Dissertation, Yale University, 2022

Hannah Greenwald's dissertation, *Now I Walk on Foreign Soil: Settler Colonialism in Argentina's Southern Borderlands, 1867-1899*, explores the complex and intertwined processes of territorial conquest, physical and ideological violence against autonomous Indigenous communities, and Indigenous resistance to the Argentine nation-state project of the 19th century. Greenwald's well-written and clearly argued historical analysis focuses on the infamous Conquest of the Desert, and her original archival research centers themes of displacement, confinement, assimilation, and resistance from the perspective of Indigenous peoples from the pampas and Patagonia region of the Southern Cone. Greenwald's dissertation makes an important contribution to recovering the centrality of Indigenous actors in shaping Argentine nation-state formation, and, in turn, contributes to current and ongoing academic, political and activist efforts to recognize Indigenous land rights, resources, and cultural revitalization in Latin America more broadly.



Hannah Greenwald is an assistant professor in Latin American history. Before coming to Gettysburg, she received her PhD in history at Yale University. She specializes in histories of Indigenous resistance, settler colonialism, and nation-state formation. Her current research examines these themes in 19th- and 20th-century Argentina and Chile. In addition to NECLAS's prize, her dissertation was also awarded Yale University's Edwin W. Small Prize in American History. At Gettysburg College, she teaches classes on Latin American history, Atlantic history, and borderlands history.

The D. Scott Palmer Best Edited Book Prize



Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas and Mérida M. Rúa *Critical Dialogues in Latinx Studies: A Reader* New York University Press, 2021

Critical Dialogues in Latinx Studies: A Reader, edited by Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas and Mérida M. Rúa, is an engaging and well-researched volume focused on the role of the humanistic social sciences in Latina/o/x Studies. As the Editors' Introduction asserts, "What we articulate in this volume is an approach to Latina/o/x Studies that actively and continuously works toward a dialogue-based, multidirectional analysis; we view such analysis as inherently comparative, not because it compares 'national

groups' or discrete 'cultures,' but because it organizes research questions and pedagogical projects around a range of equivalent social frameworks, cultural patterns, geographies, and histories." Structured around nine "critical diálogos" and featuring a star-studded lineup of experts across a number of different fields, Critical Dialogues demonstrates outstanding breadth and depth in its cutting-edge analysis of a series of urgent disciplinary debates and interdisciplinary exchanges.



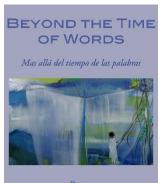
Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas received her MA/PhD in Anthropology from Columbia University. Ramos-Zayas' ethnographic work examines systems of power and cultures of privilege at various scales in the Americas. Issues of social justice and the intersection of intimate worlds and political economic structures are fundamental concerns in her research. In addition to co-editing *Critical Dialogues in Latinx Studies*, Ramos-Zayas is the author of other award-winning books, including *National Performances: Class, Race, and Space in Puerto Rican Chicago* (2003), *Street Therapists: Affect, Race,*

and Neoliberal Personhood in Latino Newark (2012), and Parenting Empires: Class, Whiteness, and the Moral Economy of Privilege in Latin America (2020). She has also published numerous journal articles and co-authored Latino Crossings: Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and the Politics of Race and *Citizenship* (2003). Dr. Ramos-Yayas is Frederick Clifford Ford Professor of Ethnicity, Race, & Migration and Professor of American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Yale University.



Mérida M. Rúa is a faculty member in the Latina and Latino Studies Program at Northwestern University whose research and teaching focus on the history and sociocultural politics of communities of color in US cities. She is the author of A Grounded Identidad: Making New Lives in Chicago's Puerto Rican Neighborhoods (Oxford University Press, 2012), editor of Latino Urban Ethnography and the Work of Elena Padilla (University of Illinois Press, 2010), and co-editor of Critical Dialogues in Latinx Studies: A Reader (NYU Press, 2021) and a special issue of the journal Latino Studies on "The Art of Latina and Latino Elderhood" (December 2021). Rúa's current book project, "Migrations to Elderhood," examines Puerto Rican old-timers' complex and multifaceted lives. The project offers interdisciplinary insight into how they make meaning of their experiences and socio-spatial environments as they age into later life.

The Best Translation Prize



Marjorie Agosín

Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman Marjorie Agosín Beyond the Time of Words Translation of Más allá del tiempo de las palabras Sixteen Rivers Press, 2022

These poems, written during the pandemic, evoke the innocence of pre-pandemic times, the uncertainty, pain, and fear of the early days of the pandemic and the silence and isolation of quarantine, and the ambiguous freedom of balconies to those remaining in their homes as the pandemic surged. The work is beautifully translated by Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman, professor emerita of World Languages and Cultural Studies of Suffolk University and long-time translator of Dr. Agosín's work and other poetry by

Latin American women.



Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman is a translator, author and Professor Emerita at Suffolk University, Boston, where she directed the Latin American Studies Program and taught language and literature courses, for three decades. Her translations of Latin American women's poetry have appeared in *Harper's*, *Human Rights Quarterly*, *City Lights* (San Francisco), *The Bitter Oleander* (New York), *The Index on Censorship* (London, England), *Agni* (Boston University), *El Coro* (U. Mass. Amherst), *The American Voice*

(Kentucky), *The Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Bridges*, *Blue Mesa*, *Black Moon*, *Americas*, and *The Massachusetts Review*. She has collaborated with Marjorie Agosín on several volumes of poetry and prose and was the recipient of the Outstanding Translation Award from the American Literary Translations Association for *Circles of Madness / Círculos de locura: Las madres de la Plaza de Mayo* (New York: White Pine Press, 1992. Professor Cooperman's primary research interests are in Latin American Political and Human Rights Narratives, Gender Studies, Latin American Film, Latino Literature, and Translation Theory and Practice.

Honorable Mention

Ulalume González de León *Plagios*, Letras Mexicanos, 2001; A Bilingual Edition Translated by Terry Ehret, John Johnson, and Nancy J. Morales. *Plagiarisms*, Sixteen Rivers Press, 2022.

Spotlight: The Work on Immigration by EC Member, Dr. Autumn Quezada-Grant

"Worth the Risk: Fear, Security, and Impunity" Latin America

Asylum seekers at the United States southwest border in 2022 hit an all-time high of over two and a half million seeking asylum. Common numbers hold around one million refugees per year. Syracuse University reported that by April 2023 Immigration courts faced record numbers of 358,110 cases that make it to court. Many clients have waited months if not years to plea refuge. Pending cases for May to December 2023 is 2,246,831 active cases. Clogged immigration courts are overburdened with daily hearings scheduled back-to-back. The United States has only 650 Immigration judges in 65 immigration courts. Clearly, this nation is in crisis. Why so many?

Numbers boggle the mind. How do we conceive of such unprecedented a protracted human rights crisis at the United States' southern border? The answer tying diporate countries is fear. No one wants to leave their home, but lack of security and violence with impunity reigns in all high impact nations. Men, women, children, or parents attempting to protect their children from violence numbers rise and unimaginable at-risk people make desperate decisions. Each fear is real so is trauma. Much scholarship is needed on those who do make it through Credible Fear Interviews at one of the 328 ports of entry. The diaspora or detention from that point lurks in the shadows. From there, individual stories scatter, evaporate. For those lucky enough to connect with attorneys or nonprofit organizations can count themselves lucky. In the shear number of cases, attorneys drown and beg for help from country conditions experts to save lives. For those of us who are involved in the long procedure, we find that issues diverge, but terror and trauma know no end.



Dr. Autumn Quezada-Grant, Ph.D. is a Professor of History at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. She has assisted with hundreds of Asylum, Removal of Deportation, and Relief Under the Convention Against Torture (CAT) cases.



Señor Iñez of Las Salinas, Nicaragua

Photos courtesy of Dr. Autumn Quezada-Grant

^[1] Syracuse Trac Immigration website that tallies overarching numbers related to Latin America. Categories include those in detention, held with criminal activities, closed cases, backlogged cases, pending cases (Highest number: Miami, Dade County, Florida), immigrants in deportation processes (North Carolina with the highest proportion of deportees, Honduras the country with most deportees, and so on. https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/quickfacts/eoir.html#:~:text=Immigration%20Court%20recorded%20closing%20358%2C110.2023%20as%20of%20A pril%202023.&text=At%20the%20end%20of%20April.pending%20before%20the%20Immigration%20Court.

Who's Who at NECLAS

Please join us in recognizing our board!

2022-2023 Leadership

PRESIDENT (2022-2023) Elizabeth Rivero Culture and Languages United States Coast Guard Academy

elizabeth.g.rivero@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT (2022-2023)

Mary Ann Mahony

History and LALCC, History Central Connecticut State University https://www2.ccsu.edu/faculty/mahon

SECRETARY TREASURER (2022-2023)

Danilo Antonio Contreras Political Science

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Bridget Franco

Latin America Film Studies College of the Holy Cross https://www.holycross.edu/academics/programs/spanish/faculty/bridget-franco

John Galante

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Maria Woolson

Spanish University of Vermont <u>https://www.uvm.edu/cas/rll/profiles/maria_woolson</u>

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