
THE COMMITTEE ON ETHNICITY, MIGRATION, RIGHTS



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The September, 2019
meeting of the EMR
Student Advisory
Council.



Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Supporters of EMR:

At the end of the academic year, we always take a moment to celebrate the contributions of EMR's intellectual community and the inspiring commitment of our students to engage rigorously some of the most vexing problems of our world through critical studies of coloniality, nationhood, immigration, ethnicity, indigeneity, and race. But this year is not like any other year. We faced a pandemic that caused enormous suffering to people around the world and had especially devastating effects in communities of color in the United States. It disrupted our work and our community in ways we had never experienced before. We missed being together for scholarly conversation, for special events, for celebrations. *And* we are also witnessing a protest against anti-Black racism spread throughout the world, demanding deep transformations that are long overdue. In the midst of all the suffering, we are also seeing extraordinary courage and longing for justice. This is a meaningful moment to reflect on what our students have done and to imagine what they will yet accomplish in the academy and the broader world.

We continue to strengthen our core programs, building structures that support and connect scholars at all levels. We closed this academic year with 89 secondary fielders. We continued offering graduate student mentorship to thesis research grant recipients and hosted monthly faculty talks on Approaches to Ethnic and Indigenous Studies across the disciplines. This was also a year of rich collaboration with university partners and brilliant student efforts at building intellectual community—including the Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies Working Group's *Transpacific Publics* series with the Asia Center and History and Literature and the Latinx Studies Working Group's *Entre Chismes* reading group.

On behalf of EMR faculty and students, I want to acknowledge our debt to our colleagues in American Studies; Harvard University Native American Program; History and Literature; the Observatorio Cervantes; Romance Languages and Literatures; and Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality for their ongoing support. We also thank the Immigration Initiative at Harvard; the Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative; the History, Anthropology, and History of Science Departments; Harvard Art Museums; Harvard University Committee on the Arts; and the Warren Center for fruitful coordination of events and programs. We are grateful for the support of the Asian American Alumni Alliance.

This year I conclude my term as chair of EMR. It has been a true honor. I have loved working with extraordinary students who consistently embrace the challenge to orient their academic work to illuminate the world and transform it. I have enjoyed the poetry and the laughter and have been sustained by your intellectual curiosity, your brilliance, your warmth. It has been a pleasure to work with the EMR faculty committee, with whom I have learned about the continuing vitality of field and the value of collaboration. I am also immensely grateful to Eleanor Craig for her extraordinary work in support of EMR students and for patience and persistence.

EMR has a crucial role in the Arts and Humanities Division and in the university as a whole. I trust that you will continue to support its work and enjoy being part of this wonderful community. I will.

Sincerely,
Mayra Rivera
Faculty Chair
Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, Rights

Program Notes

In addition to the undergraduate secondary fields in EMR and Latinx Studies, EMR houses ongoing programs that support the work of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty pursuing work in ethnic and indigenous studies. These transdisciplinary programs are central to EMR's academic mission.



Members of the Dissertation Writing Working Group discuss chapters in progress.

Student Advisory Council (SAC)

SAC is a group of undergraduate and graduate students who serve as EMR's sounding board. SAC helps to disseminate information about EMR programs and events to other students and is a space in which representatives from the secondary field, student organizations, and EMR working groups brainstorm activities, collaborations, and recommendations for the program. SAC meets monthly on Fridays at noon, three times per semester.

Working Groups by Interest Area

EMR supports Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies, Latinx Studies, Muslim American Studies, and Human Rights Working Groups. These working groups support student learning and research through reading groups, workshopping of writing in progress, thesis research support, and events that invite creative engagement. They offer intergenerational space for scholarly engagement and mentoring.

Dissertation Writing Working Group

This working group fosters collaboration among post-exams doctoral students doing EMR-related research in any discipline or school. It builds intellectual community among its members and strengthens their research through peer critique and sustained intellectual engagement. Students are admitted through an application process and commit to participate for the full academic year, meeting 5-6 times per semester.

Senior Thesis Research Grants and Mentoring

Each spring, EMR awards grants to rising seniors to support summer thesis research in EMR areas. Students receiving these awards are assigned a graduate student



EMR Intern Massiel Torres Ulloa and Faculty Chair Mayra Rivera at the Fall Open House.

mentor who works in a related area of research. Mentors and mentees meet approximately monthly through the summer and school year until the thesis is submitted. Graduate mentors advise on fieldwork, suggest resources and research techniques, and give feedback on chapter drafts.

Approaches to Ethnic and Indigenous Studies Series

This monthly series hosts informal conversations with faculty from Harvard and beyond about how they came to and pursue their work in ethnic and/or indigenous studies. These events are organized by EMR and co-sponsored with the relevant department when possible. The theme for this year's talks was interdisciplinarity, highlighting the ways that "Ethnic and Indigenous Studies" require analyzing the production of differences based on race, ethnicity, and nation in their relationships with sexuality, gender, religion, and other markers in ways that frequently exceed disciplinary categorizations. Our speakers for this academic year were Robert Reid-Pharr, Roberto Gonzales, Eram Alam, and Bruno Carvalho.

EMR Internship

Each semester, a doctoral student whose work aligns with EMR's areas of study works as an intern performing a combination of self-initiated projects and activities that support the work of the Committee. Interns frequently choose to engage the student community in creative endeavors. This year's EMR intern, Massiel Torres Ulloa, is a doctoral student in Romance Languages and Literatures. Massiel's *My Im/Migrant Story Project* is preparing creative writing workshops for local high schoolers in partnership with the En Route after-school program.

Postdoctoral and Fellowship Lectures

A new initiative for the 2019-2020 academic year brought postdoctoral scholars from the Charles Warren Center for American Studies and Mahindra Humanities Center to EMR. Christina Davidson, Javiela Evangelista, Courtney Sato, and Tina Shull shared from works in progress.

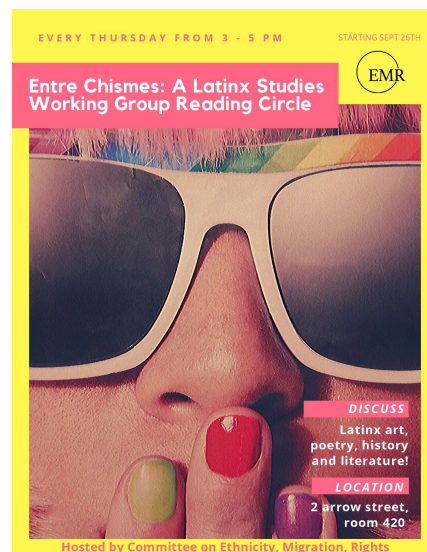


Warren Center postdoctoral fellow Courtney Sato shares her historical research and digital humanities project on Japanese incarceration in the US during WWII.

Working Group Highlights

Entre Chismes

The graduate student coordinators of the Latinx Studies Working Group curated a weekly reading circle focused on Latinx art, poetry, history, and literature that ran for the full academic year. Poetic and performance works discussed included *La Familia o el olvido* by Elena Salamanca, *My Favorite Shapes* by Julio Torres, and *Unaccompanied* by Javier Zamora. Scholarly texts included works by Lorgia García-Peña, Yolanda Martínez San-Miguel, and Diana Taylor.



Transpacific Publics Series

The Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies Working Group in partnership with the Asia Center and History and Literature began the *Asian America and the Asian Diaspora: Transpacific Publics Seminar Series*. In the kickoff event, R. Zamora Linmark (author of *Rolling the R's*) read from his new young adult novel *The Importance of Being Wilde at Heart*. In a workshop entitled, “Translating Across Time and Space” and sponsored by the Provostial Fund for Arts and Humanities, Cindy Nguyen and Quan Tran led a film screening, reading, and creative reflection session for a multigenerational audience. You can read presenter Cindy Nguyen’s reflections on the event here: <http://mis-reading.com/translation-harvard/>. The final series event of the year was Jessica Young’s lecture, “‘Here is How to Remember’: Art, Object, Text in Hari Kunzru’s *Memory Palace*.”



Participants in the “Translating Across Time and Space” workshop listen to a reading by Quan Tran.

Muslim American Studies Launch Year

The new working group in Muslim American Studies finished their first full year of activity. Their events included an *Islam in America Writing Workshop* for senior thesis writers and a visit to College Fellow Youssef Carter’s course lecture on “The Politics of Black Muslimness and HipHop.”

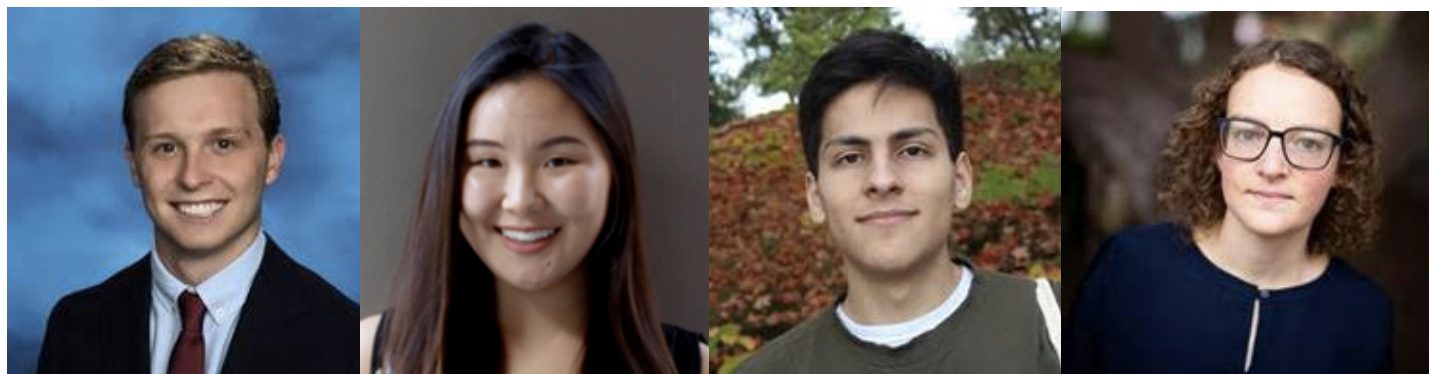
The EMR Senior Thesis Prize

Our faculty jury reviewed more than thirty submissions for the annual EMR Senior Thesis Prize. We recognized four graduates for their outstanding theses and many accomplishments. You can learn more about these students and their work at <https://emr.fas.harvard.edu/2020-grant-winners-0>

The Senior Thesis Prize of 2020 was awarded to Daniel Rosenblatt, concentrator in History and Literature.

Daniel's thesis, *"Déjame Que Te Cante Yo También": Constructing Working-Class Puerto-Rican Identity in New York City, 1917-1936*, engages the political and journalistic writings, organizational records, autobiographical accounts, and varied cultural productions of Puerto Rican "pioneros" who organized against the ways that capitalism, racism, and imperialism shaped their conditions of life and labor in New York City. It centers labor organizers, activists, feminists, and cultural workers in the interwar period to depict mutually supportive-- and sometimes contentious-- social and organizational spaces in which diasporic identities took shape. The committee was impressed by Daniel's simultaneously accessible writing and sophisticated theorization throughout the thesis.

Daniel also received the Sophia Freund Prize, the Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize, the Joan Morthland Hutchins Thesis Prize in Latino Studies from the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, the Barbara Miller Solomon Prize from the Committee on Degrees in History and Literature, and the Selma and Lewis H. Weinstein Prize in Jewish Studies.



Pictured left to right: Daniel Rosenblatt, Julie Chung, Jordan Villegas, Adele Woodmansee

Honorable Mentions

Given the highly competitive pool of submissions, the committee desired to extend recognition to three additional thesis writers.

Julie Chung, Social Anthropology concentrator
Redefining "Inclusive" Science: Hawai'i's Multicultural Settler Colonial Context

Julie also received the Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize.

Jordan Villegas, Anthropology and Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality concentrator
La Pocha, Sin Raíces / Spoiled Fruit, Without Roots: A Genealogy of Tejana Borderland Imaginaries

Jordan also received the Bowdoin Prize for Undergraduate Essays in the English Language; the Jane C. Grant Senior Prize from the Committee on Degrees in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality; and the Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize.

Adele Woodmansee, Integrative Biology and Social Anthropology concentrator

"It Is Pure Criollo Maize": Subsistence Agriculture and Ideas of Locality and Contamination in San Miguel Del Valle, Oaxaca

Adele also received the Captain Jonathan Fay Prize from the Radcliffe Institute, the Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize, and the Taliesin Prize from the Harvard Transcript Project.

Summer Thesis Research Grant Awards

Congratulations to the following students currently pursuing summer research! Undergraduate award recipients are listed alongside their project titles and doctoral mentors. We look forward to learning from their research and writings.

EMR thanks our partners at the Instituto Cervantes and donors to the EMR Fund for their generous support of these research grants.

Mariana De Leon Dominguez

Los Hijos de La Virgen de Guadalupe

Mentored by Massiel Torres Ulloa, Romance Languages and Literatures

Ryen Diaz

The Price of Kindness: Criminalization and Humanitarian Aid Along the US/Mexico Border

Mentored by Adrián Rodríguez Ríos, Romance Languages and Literatures

Oya Gursoy

Citizenship With/out Papers: Bodies, Technologies, and the Politics of Belonging in France

Mentored by Nikhita Obeegadoo, Romance Languages and Literatures

Vivekae Kim

Pima County Justice for All: A Campaign for Universal Counsel for Migrants on the US-Mexico Border

Mentored by Keish Kim, American Studies

Gabrielle Langkilde

A Betrayal of the Fa'asamoa: Domestic Violence in American Samoa

Mentored by Jewel Pereyra, American Studies

Chloe Lemmel-Hay

Imperialism vs. Human Rights: A History of Haitian Asylum in the United States

Mentored by Kirin Gupta, History

Phoebe Lindsay

The Development of Indo-Fijian Ethnic Identity

Mentored by Carleigh Beriont, Study of Religion

Joy Nesbitt

Bustin Loose: Go-Go Music and Black Identity in a Gentrified Washington, D.C.

Mentored by Maya Doig-Acuña, African and African American Studies

Remedy Ryan

Healing and Protest: Black Feminist Anti-Violence Organizing in Chicago

Mentored by Mary McNeil, American Studies

Afia Tyus

From the Great Migration to School Lunch: Black Women, the Battle Against Food Insecurity in the Promised Land, and their Essential Contribution to the Development of Food Insecurity Initiatives Today

Mentored by DeAnza Cook, History



Students from EMR 133: Power, Knowledge, Identity and EMR 137: Asian American Mobility and Transpacific Movements attended Company One Theatre's production of *Wolf Play* by Hansol Jung.



**R. Zamora Linmark and attendees at the reading from
The Importance of Being Wilde at Heart.**

EMR Faculty Advisory Committee for the 2019-2020 academic year: Robin Kelsey (Dean), Mayra Rivera (Chair), Eram Alam (History of Science), Bruno Carvalho (Romance Languages and Literatures/RLL), Lorgia García Peña (RLL), Roberto Gonzales (Graduate School of Education), Ieva Jusionyte (Anthropology), Lauren Kaminsky (History and Literature), Jinah Kim (History of Art and Architecture), Ju Yon Kim (English), Matthew Liebmann (Anthropology), María Luisa Parra (RLL), Robert Reid-Pharr (Women, Gender, and Sexuality), Raquel Vega-Durán (RLL).

On leave: Glenda Carpio (English and African and African American Studies), Philip Deloria (History), Todne Thomas (Divinity School).

EMR Staff

Administrative and Program Director, Lecturer: Eleanor Craig

Administrative Coordinator: Andrea Davies

Program and Communications Assistant: Caroline DeVane

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