

## **Omar Rivera**

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### **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Latin American Philosophy; Latinx Philosophy; 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Continental Philosophy

### **AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Social and Political Philosophy; Ancient Philosophy; History of Western Philosophy

### **EDUCATION**

2007	Ph.D. The Pennsylvania State University	Field: Philosophy
1999	B.A. St. John's College (Annapolis)	Mjr: Liberal Arts

### **APPOINTMENTS**

2020-pres.	Associate professor of Philosophy, Texas A&M University
2019-2020.	Chair of the Philosophy Department, Southwestern University
2019-pres.	Chair of the Latin American and Border Studies Program, Southwestern University
2015-pres.	Associate Professor of Philosophy, Southwestern University
2016-2017	Chair of the Latin American and Border Studies Program, Southwestern University
2013-2016	Chair of The Race and Ethnicity Studies Minor, Southwestern University
2010-2015	Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Southwestern University
2007-2010	Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin—La Crosse
Spring 2007	Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Wisconsin—La Crosse
Fall 2006	Instructor in Philosophy, The Pennsylvania State University
2005-2006	Visiting Instructor in Philosophy, Washington and Jefferson College

### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (native speaker), English (Fluent), German (intermediate, reading competence), Ancient Greek (intermediate), French (reading competence)

### **PUBLICATIONS**

*Authored books—refereed*

Rivera, Omar. *Andean Aesthetics and Anticolonial Resistance: A Cosmology of Unsociable Bodies* (London: Bloomsbury Press, forthcoming, 2021)

This book is the culmination of research in Cusco, Peru. It offers a phenomenological account of anti-colonial resistance based on Andean cosmologies and aesthetics. It offers studies of Inka architecture, Andean colonial painting and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Photography, and contemporary Peruvian Art. This project was supported by the ACLS.

Rivera, Omar. *Delimitations of Latin American Philosophy: Beyond Redemption* (Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2019)

This book brings together my early work on Latin American philosophy, and includes close readings of influential Latin American political philosophers. It attempts to delineate epistemological, intercultural and aesthetic delimitations of this philosophical tradition.

*Journal Articles Under Review (abstract accepted)—refereed*

Rivera, Omar and Hajovsky, Patrick. “Visual Epistemologies of Resistance: Imaging Saints and Virgins in Contemporary Cusco”

This essay showcases the impact of my work on Andean art history. It is a collaboration with an art historian, and it is an attempt to think through the art style of the “Cuzco School” on the basis of Andean indigenous cosmologies and epistemologies.

Rivera, Omar. “Pachayachachic: Development and an Andean Cosmological Epistemology”

*Journal Articles—refereed*

Rivera, Omar. “Resistance as Alterity in Borderlands Aesthetics” *Interamerican Journal of Philosophy*. Accepted with revisions (expected publication, Summer 2020)

Rivera, Omar. “Resistant Epistemologies from the Andes (A Contribution to Latin American Philosophy)” *Journal of World Philosophies* (forthcoming 2020).

This is the consolidation of my work on Latin American epistemologies that includes Andean indigenous cosmologies. It is also a reflection on different forms of resistance based on Andean social and cultural forms. It is a prelude to a dialogue with epistemologies of resistance as developed in Latinx philosophy (the work of José Medina and Linda Martín Alcoff in particular)

Rivera, Omar. “Stillness, Aesthesis, Resistance.” *Critical Philosophy of Race*, Volume 8, 1-2 (2020)

This essay is in a special issue on the work of María Lugones that gathers scholars engaging her work from various perspectives.

Rivera, Omar. “Approaching Racial Embodiment, Aesthetics and Liberation in José Carlos Mariátegui’s *Seven Essays*” *APA Newsletter for Hispanics in Philosophy*, Volume 19 (2019)

Rivera, Omar. “Epistemological and Aesthetic Dimensions of Transmodernism: Linda Martín Alcoff’s and Alejandro Vallega’s Readings of Enrique Dussel.” *Inter-American Journal of Philosophy* 8/2 (2017)

Rivera, Omar. “Reading Alejandro Vallega Toward a Decolonial Aesthetics.” *Comparative and Continental Philosophy* 9/2 (2017)

Rivera, Omar. “Mariátegui’s Avant-Garde and Surrealism as Discipline.” *Symposium* 18/1 (2014): 102–124

This essay is included in a special issue focused on philosophical approaches to Latin American aesthetics. It is a unique compilation that has set the stage for important developments in the field, including the turn toward an “aesthetics of liberation.”

Rivera, Omar and Hajovsky, Patrick. “Sincretismo y Desencuentros en el Cusco.” *Contrastes* 3/3 (2013): 8-14.

This is a short essay published in a regional journal in Cusco based in the Universidad Nacional Diego Quispe Tito del Cusco. Even though it does not circulate in the U.S., this journal has a strong impact on Andean experts on aesthetics and on regional artists. This essay is also part of my larger project of curating contemporary Andean art in the United States.

Rivera, Omar. “Political Ontology and Representative Politics (Agamben, Dussel, Marcos...)” *Epoche* (2011): 125-138.

Rivera, Omar. “Toward a Future Andean Technology (From a Tentative Phenomenology of Inka Stonework).” *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues in Philosophy* 11/1(2011): 8- 14

Rivera, Omar. “From Revolving Time to the Time of Revolution: Mariátegui’s Encounter with Nietzsche.” *APA News Letter on Hispanic/Latinos in Philosophy* 8/9 (2008): 22-26.

Rivera, Omar. “The ‘Image of the Indio’ in a Non-Representative Economy.” *The New Centennial Review* 7/3 (2007): 131-148.

This essay (based on a lecture) is part of a special edition on “Latin American Singularities” that brings together influential scholars working on Latin American philosophy and Literature.

Rivera, Omar. “The Comedy of Patricide (Or: a Passing sense of Manliness). Socrates’ Overcoming of *Andreia*.” *Epoche* 11/2 (2007): 353-369

#### *Book Chapters—Invited and Refereed*

Rivera, Omar. “Knowledge, Social Power and Culture (A Propaedeutic to Latinx Epistemologies).” In *Key Concepts in World Philosophies*. Chiara Robbiano and Sarah Flavel, Ed. (London: Bloomsbury Academic) *forthcoming* 2021.

Rivera, Omar. “Inversiones Estéticas y Visualidades Andinas.” In *Para una estética de la Liberación Decolonial*. Enrique Tellez, Ed. (Mexico: Poliedro) *forthcoming* 2020

This is a compilation of essays gathering mostly philosophers working in Latin America intended to provide a foundation to understand the role of aesthetics in the philosophy of

liberation. It was compiled under the advisement of Enrique Dussel, who intends to use it for his upcoming course in aesthetics in Fall 2020.

Rivera, Omar. “Hermenéutica, representatividad y espacio en filosofías de liberación social (una perspectiva Latinoamericana).” In *Sujeto, Descolonización y Transmodernidad: Debates Filosóficos Latinoamericanos*. Mabel Moraña, ed. Frankfurt/Madrid: Iberoamericana/Vervuert (2018).

This essay appears in a volume gathering influential philosophers from Latin America and the United States working on Latin American philosophy. It reaches both Spain and Latin America, and is intended as an introduction to the current state of the field. A special section was devoted to it at the Latin American Studies Association (the main conference on Latin American Studies) in 2018.

#### *Book Reviews*

Rivera, Omar. “Jessica Whyte: Catastrophe and Redemption in the Political Thought of Giorgio Agamben.” *Comparative and Continental Philosophy* 7/1 (2015)

#### *Essay Translations—Invited and Refereed*

Félix Duque. 2007. “Nature—in God, or the Problems of a Dash.” *Research in Phenomenology* 37/1 (2017): 56-74

#### *Public Philosophy-Translation, Not Refereed*

Rivera, Omar and Hajovsky, Patrick. “Syncretism and Missed Encounters in Cusco.” Translation from Spanish version for *Latinx Spaces* (2016)

#### *Edited Books Under Commission—in progress*

Rivera, Omar. *Latin American Marxisms: Challenges to Modernity* (Bloomsbury Academic)

Rivera, Omar. *Perspectives on Latin American Philosophies* (Bloomsbury Academic)

#### *Book Manuscripts—in progress*

Rivera, Omar. *The Body of the Earth: Cosmologies of Border Aesthetics*

Rivera, Omar. *Shadow Knowledge: Resistant Epistemologies in Latin American and Latinx Philosophy*

#### *Journal Articles—in progress*

Rivera, Omar. “A Phenomenological Dimension of Decolonial Theorizing” (invited by *Puncta*)

Rivera, Omar. “Estética Elemental: Observaciones sobre el Trabajo en Piedra Andina pre-Colombina.”

Rivera, Omar. “Rhythms of Resistance from the Black Pacific” (based on an upcoming lecture at

LASA in Spring 2021).

Rivera, Omar. “Aesthesis/Utcatha: Motions of Sense” Rivera, Omar (based on an upcoming lecture at the Ancient Philosophy Society, Spring 2021).

Rivera, Omar. “*Aisthesis* and Beyond: on Charles Scott’s and Nancy Tuana’s *Beyond Philosophy*.” (Review Essay for *Epoche*)

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

### *External*

2018-2019. Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars (Book project: *Stonelight: Phenomenology, Hermeneutics and Architecture from Nuestra América*.) Lima, Peru, and Cusco, Peru. Host University: University of Texas, Austin. (\$95,000 stipend, \$7,500 for research)

2018. ACLS-FOCUS (Faculty of Color Uniting for Success). Member of the Southwestern University planning committee.

2016 Mellon Foundation Grant *Creating a Shared Culture of Inclusive Pedagogy*. Southwestern University and the University of Texas at Austin. (An undergraduate and post-doctoral fellows program for diversifying higher education and promoting inclusive pedagogies) Awarded as co-PI: \$500,000.

2015. Sam Taylor Award. For the book manuscript *Stonelight: Phenomenology, Hermeneutics and Architecture from Nuestra America*. Lima, Peru, and Cusco, Peru. (\$700)

2003-2004 DAAD Research Grant-Freiburg, Germany

### *Internal*

2004. RGSO Dissertation Research Grant, The College of Liberal Arts, The Pennsylvania State University-Freiburg, Germany

2007. UW-L Faculty Research Grant, in support of research on the aesthetics of revolution in Peruvian Marxism. Lima, Peru.

2007. UW-L International Development Grant, Research on José Carlos Mariátegui-Lima, Peru.

2013. Junior Sabbatical, Southwestern University. for the book manuscript *Beyond Redemption: Latin American Philosophy through Mariátegui*. Lima, Peru.

## PRESENTATIONS

2020. “The Agony of the Image.” Blanton Museum of Art, February 2020.

This talk was sponsored by the Blanton Museum of Art, the main museum in Austin and internationally renowned for its collection of Latin American art. I was invited by the director of the museum and the main curators with expertise in Latin American and Latinx

aesthetics. My audience included art historians and scholars in Latin American studies.

2019. “Resistance as Alterity in Borderlands Aesthetics.” At the “Difference and Alterity: Critical Models in Modern Thought” Conference, University of Toronto.

2019. “Corporeal and Cosmological Imagination in *Border Arte*.” NASPH, University of Oregon.

2019. “Cataclysms: Elemental Exposures of a Cosmic Past” at the Collegium Phaenomenologicum on “Critical Phenomenology” in Citta Di Castello, Italy.

This is one of three invited lectures I have given at the Collegium Phaenomenologicum, one of the most important international gatherings of philosophers in the phenomenological and hermeneutic traditions. This exposure has allowed my work to have an impact in forging a bridge between phenomenology, Latin American philosophy and Amerindian cosmologies.

2019. “Art and Resistance” at the “Philosophies of Liberation Encuentro,” Loyola Marymount University.

2019. “Pachakuti and Elemental Architecture” at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Meeting.

2019. “Elemental Rhythms of Andean Built Environments” at the conference “Hermeneutics, the Humanities and the Future of Interpretation,” Texas A&M University.

This invited lecture provided me to develop the hermeneutical dimension of my work through an analysis of Inka architecture, expanding the field of comparative philosophy towards the indigenous Americas.

2018. “Exilic Nostalgia: Aesthetics of Liberation and Decolonial Imagination” At the APA Central Division, Chicago, IL.

2018. “Stillness, Aesthesis, Resistance,” at the “Toward a Decolonial Feminism” conference, Penn State.

This was a Keynote lecture that showcased my work to experts in Latinx feminism, the work of María Lugones in particular.

2017. “Displacing Architecture: Gadamer’s Aesthetics and Inka Stonework.” At the NASPH conference, Baltimore, MD.

This invited lecture allowed me to show the ways my work engages Hand Georg Gadamer’s aesthetics, and situate it within debates in hermeneutics.

2017. “Fixed Bodies and Irrecoverable Spaces (Decolonizing Space).” At the Decolonizing Philosophy: Latinx and Latin American Perspectives Conference, St. Mary’s University. San Antonio, Texas.

2017. “The Rhythms of Stone, Water and Light in Inka Stonework” at the Collegium Phaenomenologicum, Citta di Castello, Italy.

2017. “Corporalidades en Traslado y la Imagen Decolonial” at the LASA meeting in Lima, Peru.

2016. "Shamanic Bodies: Alcoff, Anzaldúa, Kusch, and Andean Corporealities" at the Gloria Anzaldúa Lecture Series, UTRGV. Brownsville, Texas.
2016. "Andean After-Bodies and Martín Chambi's Aesthetics of Passing-in-Stillness" at the Collegium Phaenomenologicum, Citta di Castello, Italy
2015. "The Coloniality of Time and Andean Embodied Temporalities" at the *Transamerican Experience* Conference at the University of Oregon. Eugene, Oregon  
 This invited lecture allowed me to present my first attempts to write on Andean cosmologies and aesthetics alongside well-known scholars in the field.
2015. "A Response to Alejandro Vallega's Latin American Philosophy from Identity to Radical Exteriority" at SPEP. New Orleans, Louisiana.
2014. "An Introduction to Inka Stonework" at the NASPH meeting at SPEP. Atlanta, Georgia.
2014. "Cataclysmic Potency in Inka Stonework." The Mike Ryan Lecture Series in Philosophy at Kennesaw State University. Atlanta, Georgia.
2013. "Envisioning Activism from the Experience of Race." As part of Southwestern University's Conference: "Deconstructing the Inner You: An exploration of Race, Gender and Inclusion." Georgetown, Texas.
2011. "Retrieving 'Ruwana-sophical' Sources for Indigenous forms of Revolutionary Praxis," Ethics in the Americas Symposium, University of Oregon. Eugene, Oregon.
2011. "Response: In what Sense are States voluntary in Aristotle's Ethics" North Texas Philosophical Association. Denton, Texas
2009. "Art and the Interruption of History: Photography and Mime in Oyarzun, Mariátegui and Monsivais." Presented to the Philosophy Department and the Latin American Studies Department at CSU Stanislaus. Turlock, California.
2009. "Testimony and Photography: the Art of Politics after the Peruvian Internal Armed Conflict." Presented at the Comparative Continental Philosophy Conference, Asilomar, California.
2008. "From Revolving Time to the Time of Revolution, Mariátegui's encounter with Nietzsche," at the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association. Chicago, Illinois.
2007. "The Image of the Indio in a Non-representative Economy," Symposium on Latin American Philosophy, University at Buffalo. Buffalo, New, York
2006. "Philosophy Beyond Persuasion" The Philosophy Lectures Series, Washington and Jefferson College. Washington, Pennsylvania.
2005. "Material Traces in Aristotle's *ousia*," Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy. New York

City, New York.

2005. “The Comedy of Patricide (or a Passing Sense of Manliness): Socrates’ Comedic Overcoming of Greek Manliness,” The Ancient Philosophy Society. Eugene, Oregon.

2004. “A Response to Alejandro Vallega’s *Translucence of Words*,” The Ancient Philosophy Society. Penn State University. State College, Pennsylvania.

2003. “The Comedy of Pride: The Overcoming of Tragedy in García Márquez,” Guest Lecturer, The Department of Latin American Studies, California State University-Stanislaus. Turlock, California.

2001. “On Socratic Ignorance and Imagination” Guest Lecturer, The Philosophy Lectures Series, California State University-Stanislaus. Turlock, California.

2001. “The Search for Ordinary Things: The impact of Technology on Octavio Paz’s Aesthetics,” SAAP. Portland, Maine.

## **TEACHING**

### *Graduate Advising*

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member. *All We Got: A Mixtape on the Phenomenology of Black Sonic Spaces*, Auzimuth Shane Jackson, African and African Diaspora Department UT Austin

*Undergraduate Teaching (Philosophy, Race and Ethnicity Studies, Latin American and Border Studies, Feminist Studies)*

19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy 20<sup>th</sup>

Century Philosophy The

Embodied Self Theories of Race

Latina/o Identities

Philosophies of the Americas

Philosophy and Literature—Latin America and the US/Mexico Borderlands

Philosophy of Art—Latinx Aesthetics

Visual Cultures of the Andes (advanced undergraduate interdisciplinary seminar in philosophy/art history, study abroad in Cusco, Peru)

Pre-Columbian and Indigenous Philosophies

Decolonial Theory

*Teaching graduate students*



Seminar leader at the Collegium Phaenomenologicum in Citta di Castello, Italy. Theme: Time, Freedom, Nature. (2004)

## **SERVICE**

### *Editorial Positions*

Latin American and Latinx Editor of the World Philosophy Series from Bloomsbury Academic

### *Diversification of Higher Education*

2016-present co-PI of the Mellon Grant *Creating a Shared Culture of Inclusive Pedagogy*. Responsibilities include:

- Organize workshops and mentor junior faculty and advanced graduate students in the humanities and social sciences in inclusive pedagogy and strategies to navigate tenure (from UT Austin and Southwestern University)
- Direct a post-doctoral program of Teaching Fellows at Southwestern supporting faculty of color.
- Mentor and manage financial awards to support students of color who intend to go to graduate school in the humanities and social sciences.

### *Reviewer for Philosophy Journals*

Provided reviews for *Epoché*, *Research in Phenomenology*, *Journal of World Philosophies*

### *Departmental Service*

Selected responsibilities as Chair (of Philosophy, race and Ethnicity Studies, Latin American and Border Studies)

- writing annual assessment of the program, including of faculty
- mentoring junior faculty toward tenure
- mentoring majors for graduate school or careers
- organizing events and lectures
- revise curriculum and assess new classes

### *Service to Southwestern*

2013-present. Member of the Diversity and Enrichment Committee

2015-2016. Member of the Social Justice sub-committee (overseeing the Social Justice requirement)

2012-2014. Member of the Committee on Intercultural Perspectives (including the assessment of study abroad programs)

2014-2017. Americas: North by South coordinator (design and oversee an interdisciplinary

path through Southwestern's general education requirements).

2015. Member of the committee for the curriculum design of the Latin American and Border Studies program.

2013. Member of the committee for the curriculum design of the Race and Ethnicity Studies Minor

*University and Community Engagement and Events-Regional and International*

2016-present. *latinxspaces.com* Chair of the International Editorial Advisory Board (online and multimedia publication on latinx politics and art)

2016-present. Organizer and Facilitator of the Mellon Teaching Workshops on Inclusive Pedagogies.

2016-present. Steering Committee of the Mellon Teaching Post-doctoral Fellowships at Southwestern (for UT Austin PhD's in the Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences).

2016-present. The Borderlands Symposium (For the Southwestern and larger Georgetown, TX, community).

2016-present. Steering Committee of the Mellon Undergraduate Award (supporting research by URM undergraduate students in Southwestern and UT, Austin, planning to go to graduate school).

2017. Co-curator. "The Cuzco Revolution in Painting: Richard Peralta and Edwin Quispecuro Nina." Exhibition of contemporary painting from Cuzco, Peru, at the Georgetown Art Center

2016. Remembering Texas Racial History (For the Southwestern and larger Georgetown, TX, community).

2016. Teaching Social Justice (speaker and facilitator)

2014-2016. The Race and Ethnicity Studies Symposium (For the Southwestern and larger Georgetown, TX, community).

2014. Speaker on Inclusive Pedagogies. Dean's Teacher-Scholar Discussion.

2014. Speaker on Difficult Conversations in the Classroom. Dean's Teacher-Scholar Discussion.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Philosophical Association

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

Latin American Studies Association

North American Society for Philosophical Hermeneutics

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