

Denise Meda-Lambru

Doctoral Candidate
Department of Philosophy
Texas A&M University
dmeda15@tamu.edu

Areas of Specialization: Latinx Philosophy, Latina/x Feminisms, Latin American Philosophy, Chicana Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Ethics, Aesthetics, Feminist Philosophy, 20th Century Continental Philosophy, American Pragmatism

Education

PhD Texas A&M University, Philosophy May 2023 (expected)

Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificates: Latina/o/x/Mexican American Studies; Women and Gender Studies

MA San Jose State University, Philosophy May 2012

BA University of San Diego, Philosophy and Spanish May 2009
Minor: English

Fellowships, Grants, Awards

Louisville Institute Dissertation Fellowship, Louisville Institute, 2022-2023
(Granted to outstanding Ph.D. students engaged in research pertaining to religion and social issues with the potential to generate new knowledge)

The Graduate Recruitment, Enhancement, and Travel Program Award, Graduate and Professional Studies, Texas A&M University 2022-2023

Douglas Greenlee Prize, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Annual Conference: Rollins College, 2022
(Awarded to the best paper by either a graduate student or a person holding a Ph.D. for no more than five years)

RESI/Cantu Graduate Research in Latinx Studies Fellowship, Race and Ethnicity Studies Institute and the Carlos H. Cantu Education and Opportunity Endowment, Texas A&M University, 2021-2022

Glasscock Graduate Research Fellowship, Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University, 2021-2022

Graduate Student Research and Presentation Travel Award, Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, Texas A&M University, 2019

Lechner Graduate Grant, Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University, 2017

Hypatia Diversity Project Grant, 2017

Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles

“Decolonial Movidas: María Lugones’s Notion of Decolonial Aesthetics Through Cosmologies,” *The Pluralist* (forthcoming Spring 2023)

“Cosmologies, Ritual, and Resistance: An Exploration of María Lugones’ Decolonial Aesthetics and Coalitional Movidas,” *Inter-American Journal of Philosophy*, Volume 13, Issue 1, Spring 2022
<https://ijp.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/9-Denise-Meda-Calderon.pdf>

“Chicanx Aesthetic and the Art of Making Spirit Through Ritual,” under review, *Journal of World Philosophies*

Book Chapters

“Latin American Philosophy, U.S. Latinx Philosophy, and Anglo-American Pragmatism” *Routledge Handbook of Pragmatism* (Forthcoming January 2023)

Book Reviews

“Toppling the Melting Pot: Immigration and Multiculturalism in American Pragmatism.” *The Pluralist*. Vol. 14, (2): 121-126.

“Soul-Searching, Scribbling, and Finding Your Power: The Value of Testimonio.” *Pushed Out. Journal of Latinos in Education*, DOI: [10.1080/15348431.2019.1612403](https://doi.org/10.1080/15348431.2019.1612403)

Invited Lectures and Panel Presentations

Guest Lecturer: “Chicana Spiritualities and Altars: Theorizing Aesthetic Resistance in Community Practices, Texas A&M University, Performance Studies (Graduate level course), College Station, Texas, November 17, 2022

Invited Speaker: “Connecting with the Dead: An Examination of Day of the Dead Altars as Aesthetics Practices of Resistance,” The Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, Brooklyn College, Department of Philosophy, October 18, 2022

Guest Lecturer: “Movidas Filosóficas: A Brief Reflection on Latinx Philosophy,” *Showing Trajectory Lecture Series*, Texas A&M University, Department of Communication, College Station, Texas, October 13, 2020

Invited Speaker: “Showing Up for Community: Localized Support for Our Immigrant and Refugee Community Members,” *Immigration Week: An Uncertain Border*, Texas A&M University, February 25, 2020

Invited Speaker: “Keeping Memory Alive: An Exploration of Re-membering through Days of the Dead Celebrations,” *David K. Carter Lecture Series in Philosophy*, South Texas College, Philosophy Department, McAllen, Texas, November 21, 2019

Invited Panelist: “Family Separations Along the Southern Border,” *Hispanic President’s Council Town Hall*, Texas A&M University, College Station, September 26, 2018

Conference Presentations

“Buried in the Brown: Processes of Invisibilizing Blackness in Projects of Mexicanidad,” *American Philosophy Association*, Vancouver, BC, April 2022

Refereed Paper: “Decolonial Movidas: María Lugones’ Notion of Decolonial Aesthesis Through Cosmologies,” *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy*, Rollins College, Orlando, FL, March 2022

“Chicanx Aesthetics and the Art of Making Spirit through Ritual,” *Southeast Roundtable on Philosophy of the Americas*, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC, October 2021

“Transborder Communitality: A Chicanx Investigation of the Aesthetic and Ethical Responses to Re-Member our Dead,” *Dissertation-In Progress panel- Summer Institute in American Philosophy*, via Zoom, June 2021

“Chicana Aesthetics and the Art of Making Spirit through Ritual,” *Latinx Scholarship and Creativity Symposium*, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, May 2021

“Keeping Memory Alive: Re-membering through Days of the Dead Celebrations,” *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy*, San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico, March 2020

“Beyond the Melting Pot: Race, Migration, and Memory,” Guest Lecturer, *Introduction to Latino/Mexican American Studies*, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, January 2020

“Remembering Our Selves Together: An Examination of Self Hood and Collective Memory within Latinx Communities,” *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy*, Columbus, Ohio, March 2019

“Buried in the Brown: African Roots Producing Fruits of Mexicanidad,” *Latina/x Feminisms Roundtable*, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, September 2018

“A Close Examination of Saidiya Hartman’s: “Redressing the Pained Body,” *Feminist Decolonial Politics Workshop*, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC, May 2018

“Latin American Feminist Philosophy: Distinct Voices on Cultural Identity and Social Justice,” *American Philosophy Association*, Savannah, GA, January 2018

“*La Mexicana* and Lived Experience: Revisiting *La Malinche* and Mexicana Selfhood,” *philoSOPHIA: A Feminist Society*, Florida Atlantic University, March 2017

Research Experience

“The Mexican Reintegration Project,” Dr. Sonia Hernandez and Dr. Nancy Plankey-Videla, Texas A&M University, Fall 2019-Spring 2022

“Decolonial Approaches to Philosophy,” Dr. Gregory Pappas, Texas A&M University, Summer 2018

Academic Teaching Experience

As Instructor of Record

Texas A&M University

Latin American Philosophy

Spring 2022

Meda-Lambru CV

Contemporary Moral Issues	Summer 2022 (online), Summer 2021, Spring 2021, Summer 2018
Engineering Ethics (online)	Summer 2020
Southern Arkansas University	
Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics (online)	Fall 2018-Spring 2020
Mount Saint Mary's University	
Moral Values/Ethical Decision	Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Introduction to Philosophy through Culture	Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Critical Thinking	Spring 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2016
Los Angeles Community College	
Introduction to Philosophy	Summer 2016
Ethics	Summer 2015, 2014
California State University, Fullerton	
Introduction to Moral Philosophy	Spring 2014
Critical Thinking	Fall 2013
California State University, Northridge	
Introduction to Philosophy	Fall 2012
Business Ethics	Fall 2012
<i>As Graduate Assistant Teacher</i>	
Texas A&M University	
Introduction to Philosophy	Fall 2020
Social and Political Philosophy	Spring 2020
Engineering Ethics	Fall 2017-Fall 2019

Service to the Profession

Committee Member, *APA Hispanic/Latinx Issues Newsletter*, August 2022- Current

Abstract Reviewer, *Scholars Circle*, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, November 2021

Convener, *La Colectiva Académica Working Group*, 2020-Current

Editorial Assistant, *The Inter-American Journal of Philosophy*, September 2017-Spring 2020

Convener, *Latinx Studies Working Group*, 2019-2020

Conference Host, *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy*, Conference Theme: "Inter-American Philosophy," March 2020, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Graduate Student Representative, Climate and Inclusion Committee, Spring 2018

Membership in Learned Societies and Professional Organizations

Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy

American Philosophy Association

La Colectiva Académica Working Group
Latinx Studies Working Group
Latinx Graduate Student Association

Language Skills

English- Fluent speaker and fluent writer
Spanish- Fluent speaker, proficient writer, and reader

Dissertation Project

Title: “A Chicanx Transborder Investigation of the Aesthetic and Ethical Commitments to Re-Membering our Dead”

Dissertation Advisor: Gregory Pappas

Abstract: The topic of my dissertation research is death, and the ways death is articulated to bolster resistance to multiple oppressions. By braiding scholarship of Chicanx philosophy, Latinx philosophy, aesthetics, and ritual studies, I pursue an empirical investigation that addresses how we should treat death in practices of community resistance that respond to social and historical circumstances. I analyze how communal practices of death sustain resistance across multiple borders, including geopolitical borders like the U.S./Mexico border, social borders such as race, gender and class, and divisions between life/death and individual/communal. In particular, I study communal practices of death related to Day of the Dead, such as altar-making, to offer a material expression of the life and death relationality and its significance for social and political resistance. With this aim, I research the strategies employed in altar-making practices by women who are disproportionately tasked with domestic and religious education yet often overlooked as vital conduits of community transformation. Thus, as this dissertation shows, altar-making is a critical intervention traditionally taken up by women who maintain relations with the dead and facilitate transborder resistance.

The project engages scholarship by Gloria Anzaldúa (1990, 2015), María Lugones (2003), and Laura E. Pérez (2007) who theorized artistic practices of resistance to oppressive colonial/modern logics. Their analyses reject dichotomous and anthropocentric logics and advance philosophies of resistance based on fluid and interconnected social relations across borders. I extend their scholarship to my study of Day of the Dead commemorations and aesthetic creations by Chicanx communities. My focus on altar-making will illustrate the material expressions of communal relationships with the dead. Altar-making, as a ritual of death, involves reciprocal activity and memorialization of the dead, including those who are often forgotten or neglected from popular discourses. Thus, I argue the Day of the Dead rituals such as altar-making, reveal aesthetic and ethical dimensions of death that sustain resistance to social oppressions.