

Denise Meda-Lambru
Doctoral Candidate
Department of Philosophy
Texas A&M University
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Areas of Specialization: Latinx Philosophy, Latina/x Feminisms, Latin American Philosophy, Chicana Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy

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

Education

PhD Texas A&M University, Philosophy May 2024 (expected)

Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificates:

Latina/o/x Mexican American Studies, Department of Sociology
Women and Gender Studies, Department of Sociology

MA San Jose State University, Philosophy May 2012

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

Fellowships, Grants, Awards

Glasscock Graduate Residential Fellowship, Glasscock Center for Humanities, Texas A&M, Spring 2024

(Awarded to advanced doctoral students to support the completion of their dissertation, \$11,000 plus cost of tuition and insurance benefits)

Douglas Greenlee Prize, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Annual Conference, Rollins College, March 2023

(Awarded to the best paper by either a graduate student or a person holding a Ph.D. for no more than five years)

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, \$25,000)

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

(Awarded to high-achieving doctoral students and designed to elevate Texas A&M's recruitment of graduate and professional education, \$12,500)

Douglas Greenlee Prize, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Annual Conference, Rollins College, March 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

(The RESI-Cantu Graduate Fellowship is a year-long fellowship awarded annually to one Ph.D. level student at Texas A&M University whose research contributes to the field of Latinx studies and/or analyses of race, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender, \$10,000)

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

“A Unique Response to Death: Day of the Dead Fiestas and Communal Articulations of Resistance,” *The Pluralist* (Forthcoming)

“Chicanx Aesthetic Expressions of Resistance: Making Art and Spirit through Altars and Writing,” *Journal of World Philosophies*, Volume 8, Issue 1, 2023.

<https://scholarworks.iu.edu/iupjournals/index.php/jwp/article/view/6323>

“Decolonial Movidas: María Lugones’s Notion of Decolonial Aesthesis Through Cosmologies,” *The Pluralist*, Volume 17, No. 4, Spring 2023. DOI: [10.5406/19446489.18.1.03](https://doi.org/10.5406/19446489.18.1.03)

“Cosmologies, Ritual, and Resistance: An Exploration of María Lugones’ Decolonial Aesthesis 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>

Book Chapters

“Latin American Philosophy, U.S. Latinx Philosophy, and Anglo-American Pragmatism”, Co-authored with Andrea J. Pitts, *Routledge Handbook of Pragmatism*. January 2023

Book Reviews

“Toppling the Melting Pot: Immigration and Multiculturalism in American Pragmatism.” *The Pluralist*. Vol. 14, (2): 121-126. DOI: [10.5406/pluralist.14.2.0121](https://doi.org/10.5406/pluralist.14.2.0121)

“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, Department of Performance Studies (PERF 611, Graduate level course), College Station, TX, 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, Brooklyn, NY, October 18, 2022

Invited Speaker: "Movidas Filosoficas: 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

Guest Lecturer: "Beyond the Melting Pot: Race, Migration, and Memory," Texas A&M University, Latino/a and Mexican-American Studies, College Station, TX, January 28, 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, TX, November 21, 2019

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

Conference Presentations

Refereed Paper: "A Unique Response to Death: Day of the Dead Fiestas and Communal Articulations of Resistance," *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy*, Rollins College, Denver, CO, March 2023

"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

"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-Summer 2023

Academic Teaching Experience

As Instructor of Record-

Texas A&M University

Latin American Philosophy
Contemporary Moral Issues

Current-Fall 2023, Spring 2022
Summer 2022, Summer 2021, Spring 2021 (online),
Summer 2018
Summer 2020

Engineering Ethics (online)

Southern Arkansas University

Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics (online) Fall 2018-Spring 2020

Mount Saint Mary’s University

Moral Values/Ethical Decision
Introduction to Philosophy through Culture
Critical Thinking

Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017
Spring 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2016

Los Angeles Community College

Introduction to Philosophy
Ethics

Summer 2016
Summer 2015, 2014

California State University, Fullerton

Introduction to Moral Philosophy
Critical Thinking

Spring 2014
Fall 2013

California State University, Northridge

Introduction to Philosophy
Business Ethics

Fall 2012
Fall 2012

As Graduate Assistant Teacher-

Texas A&M University

Introduction to Philosophy
Social and Political Philosophy
Engineering Ethics

Fall 2020
Spring 2020
Fall 2017-Fall 2019

Service to the Profession

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

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

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

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

References

Gregory Fernando Pappas, Professor of Philosophy
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Omar Rivera, Associate Professor of Philosophy
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Andrea Pitts, Associate Professor of Philosophy
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Sonia Hernandez, Associate Professor of History
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Felipe Hinojosa, Professor of History
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Dissertation Project

Title: “A Chicax Investigation of the Aesthetic and Ethical Commitments to Re-Member our Dead”

Dissertation Advisor: Gregory F. Pappas

Abstract: The topic of my dissertation research is death, and the ways death is articulated to bolster resistance to multiple oppressions. Philosophical theories of death generally assume a dichotomous relation between life and death and theorize the phenomenon of death as an individual’s end of life. While these theories have been important, the discipline of philosophy has undertheorized how marginalized peoples treat their dead and the significance of death for community-making. This dissertation investigates how Latinx and Chicax communities establish interconnected relationships with the dead, and how communal practices of death inform local responses to systems of power such as race, class, and gender.

By braiding together scholarship of Chicax philosophy, aesthetics, and ritual studies, the project engages scholarship by Gloria Anzaldúa (1987, 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 that engender non-hierarchical interconnected social relations. I extend their scholarship to a study of Day of the Dead commemorations and aesthetic creations by Chicax communities. In particular, I pursue an empirical investigation that observes community altars erected during Day of the Dead celebrations. Studying altars provides a material expression of the phenomena of death and how the living communities treat their dead. Moreover, the strategies employed in altar-making practices, especially as they are constructed by women who are often disproportionately tasked with domestic and religious education, illustrate the significance of relations with the dead for community transformation. I conclude that altar-making, traditionally taken up by women, reveals aesthetic and ethical dimensions of death, and is a critical intervention that facilitates community resistance against social oppressions.