

DIANA MICHELLE NEGRÍN DA SILVA
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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, 4.0, Fall 2006 - Current

Doctoral candidate in Geography, concentration in social and cultural geography

University of California, Berkeley, 3.8, May 2004

Bachelor of Arts in Latin American Studies with a concentration in social studies

Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with a concentration in Latin American Literature

**National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), UC Berkeley Education
Abroad Program, Spring 2002**

RESEARCH

Dissertation research—“Colores Mexicanos: Racial Alterity and the Right to the Mexican City.” Guadalajara and Tepic, Mexico (June 2007-Present)

Ethnographic dissertation research carried out with Wixárika (Huichol) indigenous university students and professionals living in the western Mexican cities of Guadalajara, Jalisco and Tepic, Nayarit. Study focuses on the experiences of Wixárika students and professionals as they challenge stereotypes that geographically fix indigenous peoples to rural spaces. By examining the established racial narratives of these two cities and the nation at large, research uncovers the fundamental role that regional geography and history have in defining contemporary struggles over ethnic identity and the right to the city. I argue that the individual and collective experiences of Wixárika university students and professionals in these cities have led to a wide spectrum of interpersonal and interracial negotiations that range from accommodation to resistance. Participatory research was conducted with Wixárika individuals and organizations over a span of 5 years. I also consulted non-Wixárika scholars as well as governmental and non-governmental authorities in Mexico. Archival research was carried out in Guadalajara, Tepic, Mexico City and UC Berkeley’s Bancroft Library. Research funded by a Tinker Summer Grant (2007), the Ford Foundation (2008-2013), and the Bancroft Library (2011-2012). Dissertation committee comprised of professors Beatriz Manz and Richard Walker, Department of Geography, and Percy C. Hintzen Professor Emeritus, Department of African American Studies.

OTHER RESEARCH

Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis--“Moving Towards a New Relation? The Struggle to Preserve Huichol Self-Sufficiency in the Face of the Developmentalist Politics of the Mexican State”, Jalisco, Zacatecas and Nayarit, Mexico (April 2002-May 2004)

UC Berkeley Education Abroad Field Research Project—“The Fight for Self-Determination in the Oaxacan Countryside” Oaxaca, Mexico (Fall 2001)

San Francisco State University Cuba Educational Project, San Francisco, CA and

Cuba (Fall 2000)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Geography, University of California at Berkeley (January 2013-May 2013)

Student instructor for Political Geographies of California course.

Instructor, Department of Geography, University of California at Berkeley (July-August 2012)

Instructor for California Geography course.

Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Geography, University of California at Berkeley (August-December 2008 and August-December 2010)

Student instructor for The Southern Border course cross-listed with the departments of Geography, Ethnic Studies and Education.

Reader, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California at Berkeley (August-December 2011)

Correct exams for the Southern Border.

Guest Lecturer, Department of African American Studies, University of California at Berkeley (Fall 2010-Spring 2011)

Guest lecturer for Professor Percy C. Hintzen's courses, "Minorities in a Majority Culture" and "Political Economy of the Global South."

PUBLICATIONS

- Negrín da Silva, Diana. 2012. "Wixárika Youth Activists: Unfixing the Geographic ImagiNation of the Indigenous." In *Comparative Indigenities of the Américas: Towards a Hemispheric Approach*, eds. M. Bianet Castellanos, Lourdes Gutiérrez Nájera, and Arturo J. Aldama. Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona Press.
- Negrín da Silva, Diana and Juan Negrín Fetter. 2011. "Wirikuta: Un tesoro a largo plazo ¿o polvo a corto plazo?" *Newsweek en Español/Pronatura*. 3(18): 6-11.
- Negrín da Silva, Diana. 2011. "Guadalajara de las Indias: quinientos años de construcción étnica en la Perla Tapatía." *Lucero Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies* 21: 55-78. <http://lucerojournal.com/PaperDetail.aspx?type=Article&paperId=20>
- Negrín da Silva, Diana. 2011. "Geographies of Expectation and Contestation- Stories of Wixárika University Students and Professionals in Guadalajara and Tepic, Mexico." *The Berkeley Journal of Sociology*.
- Negrín da Silva, Diana. 2009. "Estudiantes y profesionistas wixaritari desafían estereotipos y crean alternativas"/"Wixárika Students and Professionals Challenge Stereotypes and Create Alternatives." Wixárika Research Center. <http://wixarika.mediapark.net/en/documents/2008SummerCommentaryDND.pdf>
- Negrín da Silva, Diana. 2007. "Transitions Towards Democracy? Understanding Mexico's 2006 Presidential Election." Center for Latin American Studies, University of California at Berkeley. <http://www.clas.berkeley.edu/Events/fall2007/10-23-07-aguayo/index-negrin.html>

FELLOWSHIPS

Bancroft Library Study Grant, 2011-2012

Ford Diversity Pre-Dissertation Fellow, 2008-Present

Chancellor's Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2006-2010
Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers, Phillips Academy Andover, MA, 2006
Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, 2003

RESEARCH GRANTS

Dean's Normative Time Grant, 2010
Tinker Summer Research Grant, 2007
College of Letters and Science Travel Grant, 2003

AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, 2011
Member of the National Academies, Awarded 2008
Institute of International Studies Environmental Justice Award, 2003
John K. Walsh Spanish and Portuguese Department Award, 2002
The Hispanic Community Affairs Council Award, 1999

PUBLIC & ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Panel Organizer and Presenter. *American Association of Geographers*, 2013, Los Angeles, CA. "Wixárika Activism Across the Margins."

Panel Organizer. *Second Biannual Conference of the International Association of Inter-American Studies*, 2012, Guadalajara, Mexico. "Más allá de la chaquira: organizaciones urbanas indígenas y el derecho a la ciudad"/"Beyond Beads: Urban Indigenous Organizations and the Right to the City."

Presenter. *Bancroft Library Roundtable*, 2012, Berkeley, CA. "Manuel Lozada's Indigenous Rebellion: A 19th Century Tale of Capital, Race, and the Struggle over Territory in Mexico."

Presenter. *El Centro Chicano and the Stanford American Indian Organization*, 2012, Stanford, CA. "Protecting the Sacred."

Presenter. *Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Annual Meeting*, 2011, Sacramento, CA. "Chocolate Charlatans and the Commercial Exploitation of Wixárika Culture."

Presenter. *Race, Space and Nature: A One-day Symposium*, 2011, Berkeley, CA. Deconstructing "El Huicholito": Challenges to Racial Narratives in Urban Mexico

Presenter. *Berkeley Journal of Sociology Conference*, 2011, Berkeley, CA. "Geographies of Expectation and Contestation— Stories of Wixárika University Students and Professionals in Guadalajara and Tepic, Mexico."

Conference Organizer. *Universidad Autónoma de Nayarit*, 2010, Tepic, Mexico. "Taller de Diálogo."

Presenter. *Centro de Investigación y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social*, 2010, Guadalajara, Mexico. "Estudiantes y profesionistas wixaritari."

Presenter. Center for Latin American Studies, 2008, Berkeley, CA. "Changing Wixárika Lives and Livelihoods in Mexican Cities."

Presenter. *Ford Fellows Annual Conference*, 2008, Washington D.C. "Unfixing the Geographic ImagiNation of the Indigenous."

NON-PROFIT AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

President of the Board of Directors, Wixárika Research Center, Oakland, CA (March 2002-present)

President of the Board of Directors for non-profit foundation; research assistant in Wixárika indigenous communities of Mexico; assist with foundation's projects; edit and provide articles for foundation's website; fundraising; archival research

Co-founder, Pueblo Nuevo Art Space, Berkeley, CA (April 2008-December 2010)

Co-founder of art space and gallery; community outreach coordinator; organize monthly exhibits, forums, workshops and film screenings

Asociación para el Apoyo a Grupos Indígenas, Tonalá, Jalisco (September 2009-July 2010)

Aid with the creation of database on territorial conflicts in Mexico for non-profit foundation that supports indigenous communities in land titling and sustainable development projects

Huicholes y Plaguicidas, Guadalajara, Jalisco (June 2009-present)

Assist the director of this non-profit organization dedicated to educating seasonal migrant workers on the dangers of pesticide exposure; documentation of victims of pesticide exposure; presentations of informational video: *Huicholes y Plaguicidas (Huicholes and Pesticides)*

Co-Founder and lead coordinator of Cultural Unity, Berkeley, CA (April 2001-August 2004)

Initiate an immigrant youth community organization based at Berkeley High School; coordinate bi-weekly meetings with a total of 50 students; organize cultural assemblies and activities; coordinate free legal clinics for Berkeley's South Asian and Muslim community in the winter of 2002; coordinate and assist in the editing of two publications to be used in social and ethnic studies curriculum in high schools; meet with school administration, write and receive four grants to finance the second publication; obtain fiscal sponsorship and manage finances for the organization

Chicano Moratorium, Oakland, CA (February 1998-August 2004)

Attend weekly meetings; organize actions around social justice issues in the low-income communities of California; support youth and immigrant rights through educational workshops; create relevant social studies, language and arts curriculum for inner city schools

Friends Outside, Los Angeles, CA (February-May 2005)

Volunteer for the "Get On the Bus" project in Watts to assist with the enrollment and transportation of children to go visit their mothers at Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla, CA on Mother's Day, 2005.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Case Manager, Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters, Los Angeles, CA

(September 2004-July 2006)

English Language Learners Department, Berkeley High School, Berkeley, CA

(February 2002-August 2004)

Student Learning Center, Berkeley High School, Berkeley, CA

(January 2000-June 2001)

SKILLS

- Fluent in English, Spanish, French and proficient in Portuguese
- Archival and field research
- Editing
- Grant writing