Faculty

Rising Stars of UT’s Latin Americanist Faculty

Latin American Studies at the University of Texas is recognized as one of the best programs in the country, and the addition of outstanding new faculty is key to its continued growth and attraction for students. Here we introduce you to three bright lights at UT, all arrivals within the past few years.

FRANK GURIDY’s research interests explore the histories of the African Diaspora in the Americas, focusing on the social and cultural engagements between Afro-Cubans and African Americans in the twentieth century. Assistant Professor of History, he is affiliated with LLILAS and the Center for African and African American Studies. Frank’s course offerings include: “African Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean,” “Re-imagining Cuba,” “Caribbean Racial Formations,” “Modern Latin America,” and “The U.S. Presence in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Frank, “Cuba is particularly salient because it teaches us about the longstanding histories of transnational relationships and empire-building, issues that are alive and well in our current moment.”

Frank received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan in 2002. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in 2002–2003 and received a Dorothy Danforth Compton Fellowship in 1999–2000 from the Institute for the Study of World Politics.

JOSSIARNA ARROYO MARTÍNEZ, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, specializes in the analysis of literary and cultural discourses of Brazil and the Spanish Caribbean (Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico); postcolonial and feminist criticism; and the intersection of discourses of race, gender, and sexuality. Course offerings include “Culture and Politics in the Hispanic Caribbean; Afro-Diasporas,” “Introduction to Spanish American Literature since Modernism,” “Nation and Transnation in the Hispanic Caribbean,” and a graduate seminar, “Technologies: Language, Politics, and Culture in the Americas of Fin de Siglo.” Josiarrna’s research explores the analysis of global connections between Freemasons in the Spanish Caribbean and the United States from Earl Lewis’s concept of “overlapping diasporas” and focusing on Masonic conceptualizations of the word as technology and its representation of race, global capital, and alternative communities. She is working on her forthcoming book titled: Fin de siglo: Secrecy and Technologies of the Word in Caribbean Freemasonry.

She comments, “My interdisciplinary link between Latin American, Caribbean, and African Diaspora Studies puts together themes which have defined my research since my years as an undergraduate student at the University of Puerto Rico: racial, gender, and class inequalities and their relationship to colonial oppression. Studies about the African Diaspora bring awareness to the complex political, economic, and social struggle of Afrodescendants in the Americas. As I have found during my years studying Brazil and the Spanish Caribbean, intersectionalities of race, gender, and sexuality shed light into forms of colonial oppression which remain intact in our so-called ‘equal’ global world. If contemporary migration from Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States still defines what it means to ‘American,’ while it has created new sociopolitical and economic frontiers, as I show in my new book, these ‘frontiers’ are not new to this country but have been part of the United States’s colonial and imperial history since the nineteenth century!”

Josiarrna is affiliated with both LLILAS and the Center for African and African American Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Hispanic languages and literature from the University of California, Berkeley.

DANIEL BRINKS, Assistant Professor of Government in the fields of comparative politics and public law, teaches courses in comparative politics, comparative judicial politics, democracy and democratization, and Latin American politics, as well as courses at the UT Law School. Dan’s research focuses on the role of the law and courts in supporting or extending the rights associated with democracy, with a primary regional interest in Latin America. His most recent projects address the judicial response to police violence in Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay; the use of the courts and law to enforce social and economic rights in the developing world; and the role of informal norms in the legal order. He is also interested in the study of democracy more generally, and has written on the classification of regimes in Latin America, and on the global diffusion of democracy in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Dan will be spending the 2006–2007 academic year as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute for International Studies, working on his research project “Law and Rights in Developing Countries: The Impact of Legal Strategies on Social and Economic Rights.” This is a very exciting project,” he says. “We are exploring the use of law and courts to expand access to health care and education in Brazil, India, South Africa, Indonesia, and Nigeria. We hope to put together the first comprehensive study of the conditions under which legal strategies can make a real difference in these critical areas for human development.”

Daniel was born and raised in Argentina. He has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Notre Dame and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. He practiced law for nearly ten years before returning to academia, including a period clerking for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.
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