

# LLILAS Draws on a Diverse Faculty

The diversity and high caliber of the faculty involved in Latin American Studies make UT Austin a magnet for students seeking an interdisciplinary focus of study. From History, Sociology, Government, and Anthropology, the four faculty below are representative of the scholarly excellence available to students in the LLILAS program.

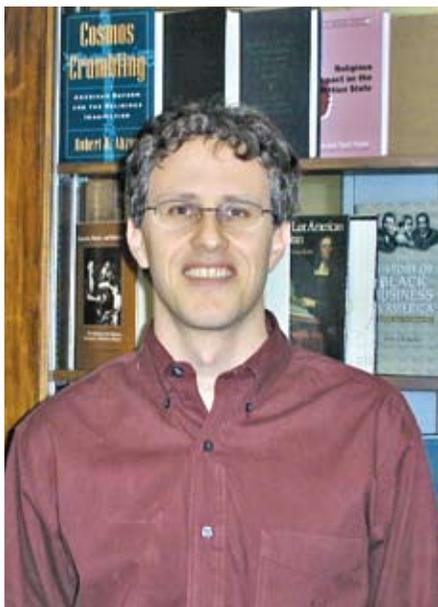


PHOTO BY M.G. MOORE

## Seth Garfield

Seth Garfield is the LLILAS Undergraduate Faculty Adviser and Associate Professor in the Department of History, which was recently ranked the #1 Latin American history graduate program in the United States by *U.S. News and World Report*.

A Ph.D. of Yale University, Dr. Garfield focuses his current research on rubber tapping in the Brazilian Amazon during World War II and the roots of contemporary popular mobilization in the rain forest. When Japan invaded the Malayan peninsula after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States lost access to 98 percent of its supply of natural rubber, a

vital raw material for the war effort. The United States turned to Brazil to furnish latex from the wild rubber trees of the Amazon, subsidizing the relocation of more than 50,000 migrant workers and their families from northeastern Brazil to the rain forest.

“At first, I was drawn to this story by the riveting drama of the migrants,” Garfield notes, “but as I delved more deeply into the historical documentation, I became further intrigued in tracing the changes and continuities in cultural representations of the Amazon forest over the last half-century, as well as the ongoing global repercussions of the U.S. automotive industry’s dependency on raw materials.” Whereas contemporary political debate focuses on the problem of U.S. oil dependency, prior to Pearl Harbor, the nation’s overreliance on Asian rubber alarmed a number of policymakers, although little was done to avert a potential crisis due to entrenched corporate interests. And while nowadays the Amazon is often invoked in green politics as the lungs of the planet, during the war it was seen as the arsenal of the military-industrial complex. “In other words, we still look to the Amazon to ‘save the world,’ albeit in a different way,” Garfield points out. “It has been extremely laborious to gather and analyze the wealth of documentation on the wartime rubber project that is scattered among a dozen archives across the United States and Brazil,” Garfield adds, “but the intellectual and geographic journey has been well worth it.”

Dr. Garfield is the author of *Indigenous*

*Struggle at the Heart of Brazil: State Policy, Frontier Expansion, and the Xavante Indians, 1937–1988* (Duke University Press, 2001). Regarding his role as undergraduate faculty adviser, he notes, “It has been a delight to work with students in mining the innumerable resources that LLILAS has to offer.”



## Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez

Immigration is an issue front and center in the news these days and one of particular interest to Gloria Gonzalez-Lopez, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, who focuses on gender and sexuality of Mexican immigrant populations. A psychotherapist by training, she has worked with Latin American immigrants as a clinician, teacher, and sex educator in community-based agencies in California and Texas.

A native of Monterrey, Mexico, Dr.



### Juliet Hooker

Juliet Hooker began her UT Austin career in 2001 as a Rockefeller Postdoctoral Fellow at LLILAS. The following year, she was appointed a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Government and the Center for African and African American Studies. Born and raised in Nicaragua, she earned her Ph.D. from Cornell University. She specializes in feminist theory, Latin American political thought, and critical race theory, as well as Latin American politics, with a particular focus on multiculturalism, racial and ethnic politics, and Afro-descendant social movements in Central America.

Professor Hooker is the author of *Race and the Politics of Solidarity* to be published by Oxford University Press. She also has written articles on multicultural citizenship and race and nationalism in Latin America, which have appeared in the *Journal of Latin American Studies* and the *Latin American Research Review*. Her work has also been translated into Portuguese and has appeared in academic journals in Latin America such as *Tempo Social* (São Paulo, Brazil).

During fall 2006, Dr. Hooker was a Visiting Fellow at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at Notre Dame University. In 2006 she received a “Junior Scholar in the Study of Democracy” grant from the Latin American Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Ford Foundation. She also was the recipient of a Houston Endowment Research Leave from LLILAS during spring 2007.

Regarding her research and teaching at UT, Dr. Hooker says, “One of the most rewarding things about being at UT for me has been the fact that I have been able to combine my interests in political theory and Latin American politics in both my research and teaching here. Next year, for example, I plan to teach a graduate course that will serve as an introduction to Latin American political thought, and my second book project draws on the results of public opinion surveys that a colleague at UT and I carried out in Nicaragua. I’ve benefited immensely from being at a university with so many other scholars working on questions of race, ethnicity, and multiculturalism both in Latin America and other regions of the world.”

Gonzalez-Lopez earned her Ph.D. at the University of Southern California. In addition to her appointment in Sociology, she is affiliated with LLILAS, the Center for Mexican American Studies, and the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies. She teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on gender, sexuality, and qualitative methods.

Her book, *Erotic Journeys: Mexican Immigrants and Their Sex Lives* (University of California Press, 2005), investigates the ways in which sixty heterosexual Mexican women and men living in Los Angeles reinvent their sex lives as part of their immigration and settlement experiences.

Regarding another of her areas of interest, Dr. Gonzalez-Lopez says, “I am currently working on my second major project: incest in Mexican society. This project is in some ways an extension of my previous work on migration and sexuality, and it is the first sociological examination of incest in Mexico. In this study, I am exploring the social forces that make children and women vulnerable to becoming engaged in sexualized experiences (mainly involuntary) within the family context. I am conducting this qualitative project in four large urban areas in Mexico: Ciudad Juarez, Guadalajara, Mexico City, and Monterrey.

“As a teacher, I am interested in transforming my classroom into a space in which we can explore ways to promote critical thinking and help our students become active agents of social change within their families, communities, and future professions.”



### Shannon Speed

Shannon Speed is Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology, where she has taught since 2003. She is also an enrolled citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma.

A Ph.D. of the University of California, Davis, she focuses her research on human rights, indigenous rights, and gender. Her country of particular interest is Mexico, specifically, Chiapas. For the past five years, she has been involved in organizing the *Abriendo Brecha* conference, which draws together scholars, activists, and others whose research and intellectual work are developed and carried out in alignment with communities, organizations, and movements working for social justice.

In November 2006, Dr. Speed was a participant in a reading and book presentation at LLILAS of *Dissident Women: Gender and Cultural Politics in Chiapas*, which she coedited with R. Aida Hernandez Castillo and Lynn M. Stephen (University of Texas Press, 2006). This book provided a diverse collection of voices exploring the human rights and gender issues that gained international attention after the first public appearance of the Zapatistas in 1994. Her new book, *Rights in Rebellion: Indigenous Struggle and Human Rights in Chiapas*, will be published by Stanford University Press in November 2007.

Regarding her involvement in activist research, Dr. Speed says, “For me the very best academic production involves the production of knowledge that emerges from and contributes something to the daily struggles of people—in the case of my own research, indigenous peoples—outside the university setting.” ☀