

There has been an increasing renewed interest in research and scholarship related to transnationalism, internationalism, and globalization processes at colleges and universities across the nation. The interdisciplinary graduate-centered research collective (Transnational Research Collective-TRC) assembled at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in fall 2014, organized around this scholarly thrust and responded to the intersectional and trans-disciplinary lines of inquiry that graduate students and faculty were addressing in their own research projects. These students represented a diverse cross-section of disciplinary methodologies, subjectivities, and thematics. They proactively engaged in complicated scholarly conversations examining different approaches that might lead to new paradigms for understanding the complexity of the Chicana/Chicano and Latina/Latino experience.

The TRC had five academic objectives. One, strengthen student and faculty participants' critical and conceptual skills, as they related to the concepts of transnationalism and internationalism, through shared readings and discussions. Two, develop and discuss abstracts for conference presentations. Three, produce an occasional working paper series for the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute (SHRI) at UNM for dissemination through the publicly available SHRI website. Four, complete a research paper that would form the basis of master's thesis or dissertation manuscripts. Five, further the publication of peer-reviewed articles, manuscripts, and co-authored materials produced by advanced student and faculty participants. This first volume of essays is the culmination of the first three objectives. TRC participants continue to be engaged in the development of the last two objectives, as they actively work on their scholarly projects towards graduation, and publication of their collaborative scholarly work.

Beginning in fall 2014, graduate student and faculty participants convened to establish a culture of collective research support. The TRC's task was to explore socio-political and cultural expressions in the US and Mexico in the early 20th century to better understand these formations across national borders. The group, made up of interdisciplinary graduate students and faculty scholars from the areas of American Studies, Chicana and Chicano Studies, History, Latin American Studies, and Sociology, accomplished its purpose through investigating the transnational social dimensions of US and Mexican based activists, artists, and organizations. The TRC identified primary and secondary materials available in physical and digital formats that allowed for an analysis of complex transnational dimensions. The materials, also printed in Spanish, required careful methodological treatment and analysis. The themes explored included cultural expressions, education-based practices, labor declarations, feminist liberal expressions, immigrant and human rights advocacies, economic development, and civil rights proclamations. The focus on US-based Spanish language alternative media outlets allowed the researchers to track US imperial and Latin American nation-state formations as they related to public discourses on race, class, gender and sexuality subordination, and individual and community empowerment.

The Transnational Research Collective's accomplishments so far have positively demonstrated that the research and pedagogical approach intertwining faculty and student professional development will ensure degree completion among the participants and increase their educational and employment opportunities. Participants have gained by engaging in a method that underscores interactive peer-reviewed facilitation, a model for research collectives based on central tenets of Chicana and Chicano

Studies as an academic discipline and community building educational practice. Importantly, SHRI faculty advisory board members and other UNM faculty reviewed papers to guarantee the highest standards of scholarship. Among them were Gabriel Melendez, Barbara Reyes, Rebecca Schreiber, Cristobal Valencia, and Irene Vasquez. Much of the organizational and coordinating work was carried out by the founding graduate student collective members: Benjamin Abbott, doctoral candidate in American Studies, whose research interests focus on narratives of the body, gender, race and sexuality, specifically among U.S. anarchist-feminist allies; Emily Castillo, second year doctoral student in Sociology, her interests include identity formation and social activism among Chicano youth, and the creation of non-institutional intellectual spaces in Latino communities; Joseph Garcia, recent Ph.D. in the dual program of Community and Regional Planning and Latin American Studies, who specializes in Chicana and Chicano Studies, History of Immigration and Assimilation, and Latinos in a Global Society; Alexandro Jara, doctoral candidate in History, specializing in Latino Cultural Studies and U.S. Urban History; Maria Eugenia Lopez, doctoral candidate in American Studies, who specializes in racialized and gendered labor, comparative racialization, feminist historiography, and borderlands history; Rafael Martinez, second year doctoral student in American Studies, who focuses on comparative cultural studies, critical race and class studies, transnationalism, colonialism, globalism, and indigeneity; Trisha Martinez, second year doctoral student in American Studies, whose focus is on southwest borderlands, cultural performance (particularly within the context of social movements), and women of color feminism; Claudia Mitchell, second year doctoral student in American Studies, who focuses on globalization, transnational perspectives, and imperialism; Froilan Orozco, a second year Master's student in American Studies, whose work has an emphasis in immigration, borderlands, and social movements in Latin American history; Feliciano Otero, second year Master's graduate student in American Studies, whose work emphasizes transnational and national social movements, and Nuevo Mexicano involvement in early 20th century social uprisings in the US Southwest borderlands; Moises Santos Jr., Ph.D. graduate student in History, with a major field of study in US Southwest Borderlands, the educational ideologies and practices of the Mexican anarchists, and the emergence and continued contributions of leftist and radical ideologies, organizations, and individuals among Chicana/o communities in the Southwest; and Natalia Torres, Master's graduate student in American Studies, whose primary areas of research include: comparative racialization, immigration, social movements, and women of color feminism. Through hard work and enthusiasm the graduate student collective members' reached out to graduate students at other major research universities, such as UCLA, University of Arkansas, and University of Michigan, who have participated via web-conferencing in the collective's scholarly sessions. An invitation has also been extended to students at universities abroad.

In a period of growing austere conditions at institutions of higher education, collective research and publication efforts, such as that offered by the Transnational Research Collective and SHRI at UNM, can serve as a model for sustaining rich and meaningful inquiry in higher education.

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