

# DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

## Greetings from the Chair

In SPPO, learning doesn't stop at the doors of campus classrooms. Our students and faculty members actively collaborate with community partners in numerous ways. In the process, students put into practice the linguistic skills and cultural competencies acquired through their classes, while gaining a better understanding of Latinx communities in Ohio. Here are just a few examples of these productive partnerships:

With colleagues in the Theater Department, Drs. Ana Puga and Paloma Martinez Cruz direct the *Be the Street* theatre project, bringing together OSU graduate students and Latino residents of the Hilltop neighborhood in west Columbus.

Undergraduate students help Dr. Elena Foulis to film interviews with local residents documenting the experiences of Latin@s in Ohio.

Under the leadership of Dr. Frederick Aldama, students in SPPO participate in the LASER Mentoring Program, serving as academic role models to high-school-age Latinx students.

Undergraduates in the Spanish and Portuguese Club participate in SPPO's Día de los Muertos events every November, and also volunteer at a local elementary school to interpret at parent-teacher conferences.

I believe these examples demonstrate our students' enthusiasm for utilizing what they've learned in the classroom to in turn serve and learn from their surrounding communities. The department is lucky to have such students and to draw on the expertise of faculty members who carry out engaged scholarship and creative activities.

Laura Podalsky  
Chair, Dept. of Spanish & Portuguese



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## THIS ISSUE

- Latinx Community: Dr. Paloma Martinez-Cruz
- Graduate Students in the Community: John Cruz and Meghan Dabkowski
- Recent and Upcoming Publications
- Upcoming Events

## Recent Publications

Dr. Anna Babel

- 2018. *Between the Andes and the Amazon: Language and Social Meaning in Bolivia*. University of Arizona Press.
- 2016. Editor, *Awareness and Control in Sociolinguistic Research*. Cambridge University Press: New York/

Devin Grammon

- 2017. Concordancia en interacción: Variación con *haber en* Aló Presidente. In A. Speranza (ed.), *Cuestiones de sociolingüística: Aproximaciones a la lengua en uso*. Moreno (Argentina): Universidad de Moreno Press.

# LATINX COMMUNITY:

## PROFESSOR PALOMA MARTINEZ-CRUZ

The Department of Spanish & Portuguese is dedicated to community engagement; Prof. Paloma Martinez-Cruz plays a key role in this endeavor. Prof. Martinez-Cruz teaches Latinx and Latin American literature cultural production, advises graduate students, and emphasizes outreach on several levels. Toward this end, she has developed various techniques to heighten student engagement with course texts and topics and foster shared intellectual leadership. She views Latinx studies not only as an academic discipline, but as a transformative project. She seeks new ways to develop student-centered, experiential learning opportunities. In her class “Latin Soundscapes,” for example, students took salsa classes with OSU’s salsa club and reported on what they had learned at the end of the semester.

As Outreach Committee Chair, her work involves coordinating the Día de los Muertos events in the fall, and the Festival Latino in the summer. So far, the committee has hosted two city-wide events for Día de los Muertos, filling

venues at each event. About this popularity Prof. Martinez-Cruz said, “It’s exciting to see the City of Columbus and OSU community turn out to celebrate and learn about this holiday.”

The Outreach Committee and its projects are not Prof. Martinez-Cruz’s only community endeavor. Over the next two years, she will help direct “Be the Street,” a program that creates devised theatre with Latino communities. Emphasizing community voices in Columbus’ Hilltop neighborhood, “Be the Street” sponsors a series of workshops that will lead to a performance inspired by participants’ real experiences.

In addition to all of this, Prof. Martinez-Cruz co-founded, and coordinates, Onda Latina Ohio, a new initiative to promote Latina visibility in Columbus. Beginning in 2013, Onda Latina Ohio’s digital and print contributions will compile and examine the aesthetic and political strategies that Latinas employ to make meaning of place. Community members, activists, students, faculty, and local artists have attended various Onda Latina programs in numbers ranging from 8-80 participants and audience members at each event.



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## Recent Publications

- Food Fight! Millennial Mestizaje and the Dilemmas of Ethical Eating. University of Arizona Press (forthcoming).
- With John Cruz. “Hemisexualizing the Latin Lover: Film and Live Art Interpretations and Provocations.” The Routledge Companion to Gender, Sex and Pop Culture in Latin America. Ed. Frederick Aldama. New York: Routledge, in press, 2017.



*Scan to learn more about SPPO Outreach and Día de los Muertos at Ohio State*



**John Cruz** completed his Bachelor's in Marketing at Universidad Central Colombia in 2004, his Master's in Spanish Literature from St. John's University in 2012, and earned a Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at St. John's University in 2013. He is now a Ph.D. candidate in Contemporary Latin American Literary and Cultural Studies at OSU.

"I have participated in theater and other performing arts from a young age. I organized a theater group during my year of military service in Colombia, and also took part in a theater group run by my past employers. My passion for this kind of performing has always been a part of my life. At OSU, I've enjoyed the workshops and performance-based outreach projects organized by Paloma Martinez-Cruz. I see in performance and community outreach programs a tool for those in academia to work more closely with communities. Now, as a lead-devisor for *Be The Street*, I have the privilege of working with high school students from West High School. In this project, which gathers students from different cultural backgrounds, we are working together to create performances that empower students to illuminate their life experiences. This artistic approach is an important tool to communicate to society the issues that our young population face in their school."



**JOHN CRUZ**



Scan to learn more about  
[Be The Street](#)  
A performance studies  
project on human mobility  
and placemaking

**learn more**

Scan to learn more about  
[LASER](#)  
Latinx Space for Enrichment  
& Research, Office of  
Diversity & Inclusion



**MEGHAN DABKOWSKI**

**Meghan Dabkowski** is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Hispanic Linguistics who recently. Before coming to OSU, she earned her Master's and Bachelor's in Spanish and Film Studies, both from the University of Pittsburgh. Her research interests include sociophonetic variation, the intersection of intonation and pragmatics, and discourse analysis.

"One of the most enjoyable aspects of my academic life at OSU has been the opportunity to engage with the community and work to build pathways for diverse types of students. I have been lucky to serve as the graduate student representative on SPPO's Outreach Committee, which works to develop ties beyond the department. We participate in community events like Festival Latino and put on our own signature annual event to celebrate Día de los Muertos. I also coordinate a LASER (Latinx Space for Enrichment and Research) Hub at a local high school. Because I have been exceptionally privileged to experience higher education, I believe that I have a responsibility to use that privilege and experience to help others, so I partner with a group of Latinx high school students and undergraduate student mentors, meeting weekly throughout the school year to work collaboratively on preparing for college."

**GRADUATE STUDENTS**  
*in the community*



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## 21ST ANNUAL SYMPOSIA

March 30-31, 2018

### *Hispanic and Lusophone Studies Symposium*

Drawing on the theoretical perspective of wall-building as individual and national identity protection, scholars from different disciplines and periods of the Luso-Hispanic World will reflect on issues linked to identity and wall or border building. Topics include, but are not limited to: national identity and nationalism; race, ethnicity, and alterity; immigration and citizenship; and queer perspectives and the social construction of gender and sexuality.

### *Congress on Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics (OSUCHiLL)*

Presentations may deal with any aspect of Hispanic or Lusophone linguistics, including but not limited to: variation, sociolinguistics, pragmatics, phonetics, phonology, morphology, historical linguistics, psycholinguistics, semantics, and syntax. Creoles or indigenous languages of Hispanic and Lusophone countries may also be discussed. Our keynote speakers are Dr. Daniel G. Erker of Boston University and Dr. Ashwini Deo of The Ohio State University.



Scan to learn more about the 21st Annual Symposia on Hispanic and Lusophone Studies and Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics

## SYMPOSIUM ON INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND CULTURES OF LATIN AMERICA (ILCLA)

*The Center for Latin American Studies at OSU*

**OCTOBER 25-28, 2018** | CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This symposium will contribute to the teaching and learning, dissemination and preservation, study and advancement of indigenous languages and cultures of the region.



Scan to learn more about ILCLA and to access the proposal form.

## UPCOMING COURSE- THE U.S. EXPERIENCE: LATIN@S, LANGUAGE, AND LITERACY

SPANISH 2367S | MW 12:45-2:05PM

This is a GEC second writing/social diversity course that focuses on generating ideas, drafting, and revising writing projects. These projects will be situated within the thematic context of literacy and related issues among Latin@s born in the United States and Spanish-speaking immigrants. This course is taught in English & Spanish.



Thank you for supporting the Department of Spanish & Portuguese at [go.osu.edu/campuscampaign](http://go.osu.edu/campuscampaign)!

## UPCOMING COURSE- INTRODUCTION TO BRAZILIAN CULTURE

PORTUGUESE 2330 | WF 9:35-10:55AM

This GE cultures and ideas/diversity global studies course is an integrated, multidisciplinary overview of modern Brazilian culture in terms of its visual, plastic, musical, literary, dramatic, and popular arts within soci-economic and political context.