

Laura G. Gutiérrez, The University of Texas at Austin

Bio:

I have a PhD in Spanish, with a minor in Portuguese from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2000), where I also earned my MA (1994). And my BA (1991) is from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am a scholar of Latinx and Latin American visual culture and performance studies and am currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, where I also serve as Associate Chair. I teach classes in my research areas of interest from a queer and feminist vantage point and across the curriculum. Before my arrival to UT Austin in 2013, I was a faculty member at the University of Arizona, a position I held for eight years, and prior to that, I was at the University of Iowa.

My research has consistently explored questions of gender, sexuality, race, corporeal movement and discourse as it grapples with the porous nature of cultural borders across nations and regions, particularly in what is now known as Mexico and the United States. In thinking through movement, both bodily and the circuits of art production, I aim to theorize culture produced by women and queer artists who themselves are most always diasporic subjects. My methods are mixed, but often derived from performances studies, visual culture studies, close readings, thick description, and co-presence or participant-observation.

I am the author of *Performing Mexicanidad: Vendidas y Cabareteras on the Transnational Stage* (U Texas P, 2010, winner of an MLA book prize in 2011), which examines feminist performance, performative interventions, political cabaret, and visual art by Mexican and Chicax women. I have also published essays and book chapters on Latinx performance, border art, Mexican video art, and Mexican political cabaret. A recent book chapter on *cine de rumberas* was published in the book *Decentering the Nation* (winner of the 2021 Ellen Koskoff Edited Volume Prize from the Society for Ethnomusicology) and a survey on border performance and visual art appears in *The Cambridge History of Latina/o Literature*.

Currently, I am finishing a monograph tentatively entitled *Binding Intimacies in Contemporary Queer Latinx Performance and Visual Art* that opens up the possibility to think about the notion of intimacy to conceptualize collaborations and conversations related to artistic work, including the life the artists live and strive to make more livable, often under great duress. I also argue that “binding intimacy” is a queer mode of critical writing that pushes our understanding of the ways we engage with contemporary queer Latinx performance and visual art. Concurrently, I am also at work on a book entitled *Rumberas in Motion (Pictures): Transnational Movements in the Archive of Mexican 'Classic' Cinema*. It is the first is a book in English on the primary figures of *rumbera* cinema and it examines dance and other corporeal movements to think through the ways in which embodied performances in popular cultural forms are producing ideas

about gender, sexuality, and blackness in the middle of the twentieth century in Mexico (and beyond), and creating or participating in panics and anxieties around race and sexuality.

I also have extensive administrative and committee experience related to Latin American Studies at UT Austin and beyond, including in the Latin American Studies Association. In addition to being an Associate Faculty in the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies (LLILAS) and having worked with graduate students enrolled in the MA and PhD programs as a member of their committees or main advisor, I have served on the unit's Executive Committee three times, a two-year elected position; am currently serving for the third time. One of the star public programs for LLILAS is the Lozano Long Conference that happens once a year and I was able to organize and chair the organizing committee for the 2015 iteration, "Nuevas Disidencias: Youth Culture, Transnational Flows, and the Remaking of Politics in the Americas."

Soon after I joined LASA, I was nominated and elected to co-chair the Sexualities Section (previously named Lesbian and Gay Studies) from 2001-2003. I have also served on the Programming Committee as co-chair for the Latinx Studies Track, 2018-19, and as co-chair for the Sexualities and LGBTI Studies Track, 2021-22.

Because of my deep commitment to contemporary art and culture-makers that exist on the margins, I am on the board of and part of the curating team of OUTsider Fest, an Austin-based queer transmedia nonprofit, and, on occasion, I collaborate with artists. And, lastly, I am also on the board of the Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas, which meets in Mexico once a year for a week-long seminar that's structured around the sharing and discussion of ideas and works in progress.