Mini Colloquium on Chicano Spirituality

Thursday, March 12th  Business Building, Room 208  12:30 – 2:30pm

Dr. Luis León
Associate Professor, Religious Studies, University of Denver
“The Political Spirituality of Cesar Chavez”

Dr. Luis Leon is a scholar of Latina/o Religious Studies and one of the leading voices in the field. He is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at University of Denver and author of the books, *The Political Spirituality of Cesar Chavez: Crossing Religious Borders* (University of California Press, 2014) and *La Llorona’s Children: Religion, Life and Death in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (University of California Press, 2009). He has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Stanford University Humanities Center and a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley. Dr. Leon’s work focuses on the intersections of religion, race, class, gender, social inequality, and sexuality. He is presently working on a critical study of "machismo" focusing on the intersection of spirituality and eroticism among Latino men, tentatively entitled *American Machos: Religious Erotics among Latino Men*. His teaching areas include religion and politics in the United States; Latino/a borderland religions; method and theory in the study of Religions; Cultural Studies; and Queer Theory.

Dr. Laura Elisa Pérez
Associate Professor, Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley
“Ero-Ideologies: Writings on Spirituality, Art and Decolonization”

Laura Elisa Pérez is an Associate Professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, and core faculty member of the doctoral program in Performance Studies and an affiliated faculty member of the Department of Women’s Studies and the Center for Latin American Studies. Pérez received her Ph.D. from Harvard University and a BA/MA Joint Degree from The University of Chicago. Pérez curated UC Berkeley’s first Latina/o Performance Art series, co-curator *Chicana Badgirls: Las Hociconas* in 2009, in Albuquerque, NM, and curated *Labor+a(r)t+orio: Bay Area Latina@ Arts Now* at the Richmond Arts Center, CA in 2011. Her new book manuscript, “*Ero-Ideologies: Writings on Art, Spirituality, and the Decolonial*” will be published by Duke University Press, and she is at work on another project on women of color and non-violence, and an anthology on the work of multi-media artist Consuelo Jiménez Underwood.

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