

Ricardo Rocha, Ph.D.
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Current Position

Fall 2025-Present: Assistant Professor, Hispanic Studies Department, University of California, Riverside; Latinx, Afro-Latinx, & Chicanx, Theatre, Film, and Performance.

Education

Ph.D. in Drama & Theatre, June 2019, University of California, Irvine & San Diego (joint program)

Latin American Studies Emphasis

Dissertation: *Colonizing and Decolonizing Latinidad with American Theatre*

Student Speaker, June 2019 Commencement

M.A., Comparative Literature & Translation (English, Spanish, Italian) University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

B.A., Comparative Literature (English, Spanish, Italian) University of California, Berkeley

Recent Awards

2025-2030 Mellon Foundation/UC President's Humanities Initiative Fellow

2023-2025 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, Riverside, Department of Hispanic Studies

2023 Gerald Kahan Scholar's Prize from the American Society for Theatre Research

Academic/Research Areas of Specialization

Latiné/x, Afro-Latiné/x, and Chicanx Theatre and Film; Latin American Studies; Bilingual Performance; Nineteenth-Century US Theatre; Spanish-Language Theatre; Spanish Golden Age Theatre; Theatre History, Critical Theory, and Postcolonial Theory.

Practice Areas of Specialization

Theatre Director (Classical/19th and Early 20th Century/Contemporary), Improvisational Comedy, Bilingual Adaptations, Spanish-Speaking Theatre, Shakespeare, and Translator.

Book Manuscript in Progress

Selling the Sensation—Latinidad, Antagonistic Empathy, and Magical Materialism in Early US Theatre engages racial and cultural formations of US Latiné/x peoples with 19th and 20th century theatre history, historiography, and spectatorship/affect theory. Critical engagements with little-known and unknown historical artifacts examine how representations of *Latinidad* influenced our culture's ethos surrounding Latiné/x peoples.

Publications

Contributor, *Routledge Companion to Latinx Theatre and Performance* (May 2024), edited by Olga Sanchez Saltveit and Noe Montez, “La Rose, Broadway, 1906 and San Juan Bautista, 1981” is in the book's Part Two, History/Presence: [link](#)

Co-Author with Jorge Huerta, Jade Power-Sotomayor, Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez, and Karina Gutierrez, *Routledge Performance Practitioners Series: Luis Valdez* (August 2024), “Valdezian Journeys—A practical means of exploring performance.” <https://www.routledge.com/Luis-Valdez/Huerta-Aviles-Rodriguez-Gutierrez-Power-Sotomayor-Rocha/p/book/9781032496696>

Author, *Theatre Survey* (Cambridge University Press, peer-reviewed), May 2022 publication “Greasers, Bandidos, and Squatters Under Duress: Performing *Latinidad* in 1858 California” <https://www.doi.org/10.1017/S0040557422000060>

2023 Gerald Kahan Scholar’s Prize from the American Society for Theatre Research

Reviewer, Performance Shakespeare 2016 (website), *Early Modern Digital Review* (peer-reviewed), 2021 <https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/emdr/article/view/37582>

Reviewer, *Latinx Actor Training (2025)*, edited by Cynthia Santos-DeCure and Micha Espinosa, *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*

Forthcoming: Contributor, *Anthology of the Frida Kahlo 10-Minute Theater Festival*, edited by Sinergia Theatre Group- *Grupo de Teatro Sinergia* (2025). *Props 38s*, by Ricardo Rocha.

Forthcoming: Author, *Selling the Sensation—Latinidad, Capitalism, and Magical Materialism in Early US Theatre* (2026), publisher secured; critical engagements with unknown historical accounts examine how representations of *Latinidad* in 19th-20th century US theatre influenced our culture's ethos surrounding Latinx/e peoples.

Invited Talks/Panels

Hunter College, Theatre Department, Spring 2025. Lecture Title: *Under Duress in Mid-19th-Century California*

University of California, Riverside, Hispanic Studies Department, Hispanic Studies Lecture Series, Fall 2024. Lecture Title: *Spectator Gold—Antagonistic Empathy Formations in Colonial California*.

Invited Scholar Panelist, Latinx New Play Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, October 2024

Invited Scholar, Encuentro 2024: We Are Here – Presente! —A National Theatre Festival at The Los Angeles Theatre Center, Downtown Los Angeles

University of California, Merced, Department of Literatures, Languages, and Cultures. Winter 2024. Lecture Title: *Fileros and The Rose: Broadway, 1906 and San Juan Bautista, 1981*.

Middlebury College, Department of Theatre, Vermont. Winter 2020.
Lecture Title: *Decolonizing with El Teatro Campesino*.

Santa Clara University, Department of Theatre and Dance, San Jose, CA. Fall 2020.
Lecture Title: *Under Duress—Performing Latinidad in 1858 California*.

Lewis and Clark College, New Scholars Symposium, Portland, OR. Fall 2019.
Lecture Title: *Magical Materialism in US Theatre*.

Williams College, Department of Theatre, Williamstown, MA. Winter 2019.
Lecture Title: *Postcolonial California Theatre*.

Conference Presentations

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference, Denver, CO, Fall 2025
Co-Convener and Moderator, Field Conversation: *Mentorship, Scholarship, and Practice in the Age of ICE*

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference, Seattle, WA, Fall 2024
Working Group Participant, *Performing the Capitalocene*. Paper Title: One of California’s First Playwrights—Their Ecology and Transformations in the Mid-Nineteenth Century

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference, Providence, RI, Fall 2023
Working Group Participant, *Theatre Archives as a Site of Hope: American Theatre Archive Project Workshop*. Paper Title: “Yet Unknown Acts of Witnessing and Making Representations of *Latinidad* and Latinxs.”

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference, San Diego, CA, Fall 2021
Working Group Participant, *New Repetitions: Towards an Intersectional Rehearsal Pedagogy*. Paper Title: “Valdezian Journeys: A Practical Means of Exploring Performance.”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Cleveland, OH, Winter 2019
Theatre History Symposium Panelist, *Invention*. Paper Title: “Building and Dismantling Illusions with American *Latinidad*—A Study of Belasco’s Invention, *The Rose of the Rancho* (1907).”

Mid-America Theatre Conference, Milwaukee, WI, Winter 2018
Theatre History Symposium Panelist, *Spin, and Spin Again: Borders, Sovereignty, and Subjects in/of the Americas*. Paper Title: “Under Duress—A Study of *Latinidad* in Nineteenth-Century American Theatre.”

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference, San Diego, CA, Fall 2018
Working Group Participant, *Impacting Audiences: Spectatorship, Embodiment, and Change*. Paper Title: “Sourcing Consumptive Expectations of the Dominant American Gaze Upon Latinx and *Mestizo* American Representations.”

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference, Atlanta, GA, Fall 2017
Co-Convener (with Dr. Heather Nathans), *On Their Own Terms: Extraordinary Responses to Stigmatized Bodies in the Nineteenth-Century Dramaturgy of the Americas*.
Working Group Participant, *Resurrecting the Extraordinary Bodies of Pre-1850 Performance*. Paper Title: “On A Forgotten Play That Captures California’s Latinx-American Inception.”

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR) Conference, Minneapolis, MN, Fall 2016
Working Group Participant, *Trans-racial Performance, Identity and Belonging in the 21st Century*. Paper Title: “The Symbolic and the Real in *I Dream of Chang and Eng*’s Bilingual Potential.”

Fellowships and Awards

2025-2030 Mellon Foundation/UC President's Humanities Initiative

2023-2025 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow, UC Riverside, Department of Hispanic Studies

2023 Gerald Kahan Scholar's Prize from the American Society for Theatre Research

2022 ACLS Emerging Voices Fellowship Finalist

UCI Fletcher Jones Fellowship, 2018-2019: This fellowship is awarded to only one UCI doctoral candidate per year in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and leadership and to assist with doctoral degree completion.

UCI Miguel Velez Scholarship, 2018: Research and dissertation support awarded to one Latin American student annually for academic and leadership excellence.

UCI Faculty Mentor Fellow, 2016-2017: This award is given to Ph.D. students who demonstrate high potential and promise in an academic career, including teaching and research.

Tekeyan Cultural Association, Los Angeles: "Ten Years of Outstanding Service as an Educator of Drama, Language, and Literature."

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Equal Opportunity Program (EOP) Fellowship: Awarded to one minority graduate student who demonstrates academic excellence and financial need, to support diversity in higher education.

Teaching Experience

2025-Present Assistant Professor, Hispanic Studies Department, University of California, Riverside

Latinx, Afro-Latinx, & Chicanx, Theatre, Film, and Performance

2023-2025 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, Riverside, Department of Hispanic Studies

Research Topic: Yet Unknown Acts of Making Representations of *Latinidad* and Latines in Nineteenth Century and Early-Twentieth-Century US Theatre

Invited Talk: UC Riverside, January 2024

Invited Talk: UC Merced, February 2024

Symposium Co-Organizer: I am co-organizing a theatre and performance symposium at the Cheech Museum in collaboration with UC Riverside on performance representations of *Latinidad* and *Afro-Latinidad* in the US. It will be accompanied by student performances of my research's literary and theatrical materials.

- Fall 2020-Spring 2023 Lecturer, University of California, Riverside: Department of Theatre, Film, and Digital Production, undergraduate courses: *Latinx Theatre and Film*, *Theatre for Social Change*, *Theatre History 120A & 120B*, and *Shakespeare in Performance*. (synchronous online and in-person courses)
- Winter 2020-Spring 2023 Lecturer, University of California, Irvine: Drama Department, upper division undergraduate courses, *Bilingual Performance* and *Latinx Performance*, Graduate (PhD) Seminar—*Latinx and Afro-Latinx Theatre History and Theory* (synchronous online and in-person courses)
- Fall 2019-Fall 2021 Lecturer, California State University, Dominguez Hills: *Introduction to Chicana, Afro-Chicana, and Latinx Literature, Folklore, and Theatre* (online synchronous and asynchronous/ in-person)
- Fall 2019 Lecturer, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA: *Western Theatre History I*
- Fall 2019 Lecturer, California State University, Long Beach, CA: Theatre 324, *Theatre Now*
- Fall 2019 Lecturer, California State University, Dominguez Hills: Interdisciplinary Studies 312, *The Promise of the West*
- Fall 2015-Winter 2018 UCI Graduate Student Instructor: *Development of Drama* Drama 40A, 40B, & 40C: ancient Greek drama through twenty-first-century theatre and drama.
- Summer, 2017 & 2018 UCI Instructor of Record: *Drama 15 Performance Now*, Summer Session, “Transforming Histories & Identities,” 250+ students.

Theatre Experience (Recent)

- Spring 2024 Director, Staged Reading of *Lie, Baby Lie*, an adaptation of *The House of Desires* by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, by Ruth Madrid, New Play Festival, UC Riverside.
- Spring 2022 Director, Staged Reading of *In the Way*, by Lily Hart, New Play Festival, UC Riverside.
- Winter 2022 Director, Staged Reading of *Cry Now, Laugh Later* by Aaron Higareda, First Year MFA Play Readings, Culver Center, Riverside, CA.
- Fall 2019 Director, Staged Reading of scenes from David Henry Hwang's repertory for the playwright's visit to the University of California, Irvine. The event is available on YouTube; the staged reading begins at minute 9:15 of the following link: [\(37\) DHH UCI Illuminations: Introduction & "Prologue" by Theatre Woks - YouTube](#)
- Spring 2017 The University of California, Irvine, Claire Trevor School of the Arts
Director, *I Dream of Chang & Eng* by Philip Kan Gotanda
Bilingually adapted to English and Mandarin Chinese. 2016-2017 Mainstage Season.
- Spring 2015 The University of California, Irvine, Winnifred Smith Hall.
Director & Researcher, *¿Diversi...Qué?*, funded by the University of California, Irvine's DECADE Program. Researched issues of diversity, climate, and inequities on the UCI Campus, then co-wrote, adapted, and directed a play to function as an intervention.
- Fall 2015- The University of California, Irvine, Acting Instructor and Production Adviser,
Theatre Woks—a UCI Asian and Asian American theatre student ensemble.
- Spring 2014 The Frida Kahlo Theatre, Los Angeles, CA
Director & Playwright, *Props 38*—an original, bilingual (Spanish & English) play.

Professional Memberships

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)/ José Esteban Muñoz Presentation Award
Committee Member (2025-2027)

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)

Actos Equity Association (AEA)

Screen Actors Guild (SAG/AFTRA)

Latinx Theatre Commons, Steering Committee Member (2025-26)

Languages

Fluent in English and Spanish (native speaker of both). Working proficiency in Italian.

Related Professional Experience

HS/CC Theatre Arts, AP Spanish, AP English, and Literature Instructor.

- Founder of HS Drama Department; produced and directed numerous plays from classical and contemporary international repertoires, including bilingual (Armenian, Thai, Nahuatl, and Spanish) adaptations of William Shakespeare, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, William Saroyan, and Henrik Ibsen.
 - WASC Accreditation Leader

Actor/Director/Translator/Writer

- Screen Actors' Guild (SAG/AFTRA)/ Actors' Equity Association (AEA) Member.
- Theatre: Classical and contemporary dramatic and comedic actor in English and Spanish, including lead roles at the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, the Frida Kahlo Theatre, the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Theatre X, and the Los Angeles Theatre Center.
- Translator, *Un domingo en La Alameda*, Bilingual Foundation of the Arts
- Improvisational acting/comedy performer/instructor
- Directed & Adapted: Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, Marivaux's *Changes of Heart*, Saroyan's *Hello Out There*, John Cariani's *Almost Maine*, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz's *Los empeños de una casa (House of Desires)*
- Voiceover Actor and commercial Actor in English and Spanish, including documentary narrations for PBS and national and Latin-American Commercials for Domino's Pizza, Toyota, Honda, John Deer, Marriott, Burger King, and Miller Genuine Draft.