

# Christopher Mendez

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## EDUCATION

Indiana University Bloomington

PhD in English, 2024

Dissertation: “Mi Tierra Firme: Creating Space, Place, and Identity in Contemporary Latine Literature and Media” Director: Alberto Varon, English

M.A. in English, 2020

University of Texas at Austin

B.A. in English with High Honors, 2018

Thesis: “Under Construction: Masculinity, Performativity, and the Home in Mid-Twentieth Century American Fiction and Drama” Director: Phillip Barrish, English

## ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Latine/x Literature and Culture; 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century American Literature; Film and Television; LGBTQ+ Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies; Queer Theory

## PUBLICATIONS

Mendez, Christopher. “A Place to Call Home: Repurposing the Kitchen Sink to Make Queer Space in *A Taste of Honey* and *Quinceañera*.” *The Journal of Popular Culture*, vol. 56, no. 3-4, June/August 2023, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/jpcu.13201>.

Mendez, Christopher. “Race and Upward Mobility: seeking, gatekeeping, and other class strategies in postwar America.” *Latino Studies*, vol. 19, no. 3, 2021, <https://doi-org.proxyiub.uits.iu.edu/10.1057/s41276-021-00318-3>.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Re-memembering Home: Embodied Resilience and Self-Discovery in the Margins of Academia.” NCTEAR Conference, Austin, TX, February 2024

- “Border Crossings: Repurposing Liminal Spaces in Sandra Cisneros’s *Caramelo*.” MELUS Conference, Indianapolis, IN, April 2023
- “Mi Tierra Firme: Making Groundedness in *Their Dogs Came With Them*.” US Latinx Literary Theory and Criticism Conference, New York City, NY, April 2023
- “Producing Brown Space: Multiracial Constructions of Latinidad in *We the Animals* and *Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo*.” Latinx Studies Association Conference, South Bend, IN, July 2022
- “Conquistadors in Hard Hats: Racial Capitalism and Colonization in *Quinceañera* and *The Madonnas of Echo Park*.” CRRES Research Symposium, Bloomington, IN, April 2021
- “Hot Commodities: Racial Capitalism in *Quinceañera* and *The Madonnas of Echo Park*.” Indiana University Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, Bloomington, IN, April 2021
- “Eating the Neighborhood: Gentrification as Consumption in *Vida* and *Quinceañera*.” Latinx Studies Association Conference, South Bend, IN, July 2020 (accepted but conference cancelled due to covid pandemic)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Texas at San Antonio**

*Adjunct Instructor, Department of Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality Studies*

MAS 2013 Introduction to Chicana/x/o Studies dual credit (Fall 2024)

### **Texas A&M University-San Antonio**

*Adjunct Instructor, Department of Language, Literature, and Arts*

ENGL 1301 Composition I (Fall 2024)

### **Angelo State University**

*Adjunct Instructor, Department of English and Modern Languages*

ENGL 1301 Composition I dual credit (Fall 2024)

### **Indiana University Bloomington**

*Associate Instructor, Latino Studies Program*

Introduction to Latine/x Cultures (Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

- Served as instructor of record for one to two sections of 20-30 undergraduate students
- Designed course syllabus, assignments, and lectures
- Selected a range of Latine/x literary and visual texts, including fiction, poetry, film, and television

- Taught analytical reading and writing, with focus on argument, evidence, clarity of structure

*Associate Instructor, Department of English*

Projects in Reading and Writing (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

- Designed and proposed advanced first year undergraduate composition course for 20-30 students
- Created reading guides for all major critical essays in the course
- Planned all assignments and in-class exercises
- Taught film and comic book analysis using critical race theory as an analytical lens

*Associate Instructor, Department of English*

Reading, Writing, and Inquiry: Basic Writing (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)

- Taught fundamental reading and writing skills to first year undergraduate composition course of 15 students
- Advised students on issues related to acclimation to college, academic work, course selection.

*Associate Instructor, Department of English*

Reading Writing, and Inquiry I: Multilingual Writing (Fall 2020)

- Taught analytical writing to multilingual writers
- Graded all assignments; held regular one-on-one office hours

*Associate Instructor, Department of English*

Reading, Writing, and Inquiry I (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

- Produced a guide for students to conduct comparative analysis using Voyant Tools online document analysis program.
- Taught analytical reading and writing skills to first year undergraduate composition course of 23 students
- Graded all assignments; held regular one-on-one office hours
- Advised students on issues related to acclimation to college, academic work, course selection.

## **University of Texas at Austin**

*Undergraduate Intern in Classroom Instruction, Harry Ransom Center (Fall 2017- Spring 2018)*

- Produced instructional guide for analyzing archival materials

- Coauthor, “Guidelines for Primary Source Literacy” and “Guidelines for Primary Source Literacy (Extended Analysis)” teaching handouts
- Facilitated student engagement with the center’s archival materials by choosing items relevant to the course topic and providing important background information on each object.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

Reference Desk Associate, Herman B Wells Library, IU Bloomington, 2019—Present

- Provided research consultations to students, faculty and staff.
- Developed statistical data on library usage.
- Produced how to videos on how to use particular databases
- Chose a selection of books for a public display

Circulation Desk Associate, Perry-Castañeda Library, UT Austin, Fall 2015- Spring 2018

- Assisted students, faculty, and staff with the collection and return of library books.
- Helped with shelving and maintenance of library book collection.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH**

Member, IUB Graduate Student Advisory Board, Bloomington, IN, Jan. 2023—

Undergraduate Services Committee Representative, English Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Bloomington, IN, Aug. 2021- May 2022

Presenter, *Dolores* documentary screening, Whittenberger Auditorium, Bloomington, IN, Sep. 2019

Mentor/ Tutor, English as a New Language Program, Bloomington, IN, Aug. 2018-May 2019

Member, Latinx Initiative, Bloomington, IN, Apr. 2019

Member, Men Like Us, Bloomington, IN, Aug. 2018)

Volunteer, Pearl of the Concho Teen Writers Camp, San Angelo, TX, Jul. 2011- Jun 2016

## **ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Founder, Queer of Color Alliance, Bloomington, IN, Jan. 2021

Chair, Latine Graduate and Professional Student Union, Bloomington, IN, Aug. 2020-May 2021

Secretary, Latine Graduate and Professional Student Union, Bloomington, IN, Aug. 2019-May 2020

## **AWARDS**

President's Diversity Dissertation Fellowship, Indiana University Bloomington, Fall 2023-Spring 2024

- The University Graduate school provides a year of financial support to aid underrepresented students in the completion of their dissertation and doctorate degree

Student Employee Recognition Award, Indiana University Bloomington Libraries, Spring 2022

Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) summer research fellowship, University of Texas, Spring 2022

- This fellowship provides summer funding for graduate students conducting research with materials from the Benson Latin American Collection

Lawlis-Duchovnay Travel Award, Indiana University Bloomington, Spring 2022

Carnegie Travel Fund Award, Indiana University Bloomington, Spring 2022

Departmental Travel Award, Indiana University Bloomington, Spring 2022

First Year Recruitment Fellowship, Indiana University Bloomington, 2018-2019

Marion Burke Smith Thesis Scholarship, UT Austin, 2017

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native)

Spanish (intermediate reading and speaking proficiency)