Aimee M. Villarreal

POSITIONS HELD
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas 2022 – present
Associate Professor and Program Head, Comparative Mexican American Studies, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas 2014 – 2022
Assistant Director, Center for Mexican American Studies and Research, Our Lady of the Lake University 2015 – 2017
Director, Center for Mexican American Studies and Research, Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas 2020 – 2022
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Clements Center for the Study of Southwestern America, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 2017 – 2018
Research and Policy Consultant, Somos Un Pueblo Unido, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2010 – 2014
Coordinator of Chicana/o Studies, Colorado State University, Pueblo, Colorado, 2006 – 2007
Visiting Professor, Sociology/Anthropology, Regis University, Denver Colorado, 2005 – 2006
Educational Researcher, College of Education, University of Colorado, Springs, 2003 – 2005

EDUCATION
PhD, Cultural Anthropology, University of California at Santa Cruz, 2014
Master of Arts, Cultural Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2007
Master of Arts, Bicultural/Bilingual Studies, University of Texas, San Antonio, 2001
Bachelor of Arts, Psychology and Foreign Languages, New Mexico State University, 1997

RESEARCH INTERESTS
US-Mexico borderlands; social movements; sanctuary and asylum; gender and sexuality; cultural performance, religion, and spiritual politics.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS
2024 College of Arts and Sciences Golden Apple Award for Distinction in Service
2022 Moody Professorship, Faculty Achievement Award, Our Lady of the Lake University
2021 University of New Mexico, Center for Regional Studies Summer Research Fellowship
2021 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Grant, "Unsettled Refuge"
2020 Colorado College, Latinx Ethnography Seminar, Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies
2017 – 2018 Clements Center Fellowship for the Study of Southwestern America
2019 SAR Seminar: "Ethnographies of Contestation and Resilience in Latinx America"
2016 Texas Historical Commission Grant, "The Farmworker Movement in Texas"
2016 *La Cosecha* Center for Mexican American Studies and Research Grant
2014 39th Annual American Indian Film Festival: Best Animation
2014 XicanIndie Film Festival: Best Animated Short
2013 Southwest Hispanic Research Institute, Visiting Scholar
2011 Ford Foundation Dissertation Writing Fellowship
2010 New Mexico Office of the State Historian Fellowship
2010 Berkeley Center for Human Rights Fellowship

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS
Martínez, Valerie and Villarreal, Aimee. "The Limits of Academic Freedom: How the Struggle for Ethnic Studies in K-12 Public Schools Signaled the Anti-DEIA Assault on Higher Education in Texas." *Democracy and Communication,* 59, vol. 1 (2025): 9 – 30.

Villarreal, Aimee. “The Price of Sanctuary at a Hispanic-Serving Institution.” *Conditionally Accepted: Navigating Higher Education from the Margins,* edited by Eric Joy Denise and Bertin M. Louis Jr. University of Texas Press, 2024.
Villarreal, Aimee. “Anthropolocura as Homeplace Ethnography.” In *Ethnographic Refusals, Unruly Latinidades,* edited by Gina M. Perez and Alex E. Chavez, UNM Press, 2022.
Villarreal, Aimee et al. “Introduction.” In *Ethnographic Refusals, Unruly Latinidades,* edited by Gina M. Perez and Alex E. Chavez, UNM Press, 2022.
Villarreal, Aimee. “Sanctuaryscapes in the North American Southwest.” *Radical History Review,* 135, no. 2 (2019): 43 – 70.
Villarreal, Aimee and Crawford, Lindy. “Hegemonic Multiculturalism: English Immersion, Ideology, and Subtractive Schooling.” *Bilingual Research Journal* 29, no. 3 (2009): 600-19.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS
Villarreal, Aimee. “Latinx Anthropology. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Gender and Women’s Studies*, forthcoming, 2026
Villarreal, Aimee and Laura Madokoro. “Capturing Sanctuary: The Policy Afterlives of Unruly Solidarities.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics,* forthcoming, 2026
Villarreal, Aimee. “From Subversive to Sage: Denise Banks’ Fugitive Sanctuary.” In *Unruly Borders: Mobility, Confinement, and Sanctuary in and Beyond the North American West*, edited by Paul Conrad and Cristina Salinas. University of Arlington Press, forthcoming, 2026
Villarreal, Aimee. *Sanctuaryscapes in the New Mexico Borderlands: Movements and Revivals Across Secular-Religious Spaces*. University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming, 2026

FILM AND MEDIA PRODUCTION
Leaños, John Jota, Director, and Villarreal, Aimee, Researcher/Producer (2014): *Frontera! Revolt and Rebellion on Río Grande. Animated Documentary of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680.*
https://vimeo.com/75840615

OTHER PUBLICATIONS
Villarreal, Aimee. “Black Evangelical Spiritual Solidarities in Atlanta.” *New Directions in the Anthropology of Christianity: Review Forum of Kincraft,* no. 5 (2023).
Villarreal, Aimee. “The Day of the Dead in Art Showcases an Evolving Tradition.” *Glasstire: Texas Visual Art,* February 10, 2020
Villarreal, Aimee and Garcia, David F. “Our Laboratory of Anthropolocura.” Featured Article: *Anthropology News Sections Edition,* July 10, 2018.
Villarreal, Aimee and Leaños, John Jota. “Animating Resistance: Anthropology as Public Pedagogy.” *Anthropology News,* June 5, 2017.
Villarreal, Aimee. “Confronting Santa Fe’s Entrada Pageant.” *NM Politics.Net,* August 30, 2017.
Saldaña, Lilliana and Villarreal, Aimee. October 2016. “Our Knowledge, Our History is Under Siege.” *La Voz de Esperanza,* 29(8), 3 – 6.
Villarreal Aimee. 2015. “Bridging the Divide Between Ethnic Studies and Anthropology.” *Anthropology News,* July 10, 2015.
Villarreal, Aimee. “Biased-Based Policing at a Glance: An Evaluation of the Prohibition of Profiling Practices Act.” *Somos Un Pueblo Unido, Public Report,* 2012.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE
2023 – present: Texas State University
ANTH 7310F: Ethnography of the US-Mexico Borderlands (doctoral seminar)
ANTH 5311: Seminar in Anthropological Theory (graduate seminar)
ANTH 3324/5324: Mexican American Culture (graduate/undergraduate)

ANTH 3330/5330: Community Research Project (graduate/undergraduate)
ANTH 3350: Gender and Sexuality in Global Perspective (graduate/undergraduate)
ANTH 1312: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (undergraduate)

2014 – 2022: Our Lady of the Lake University
CMAS 1301: Introduction to Mexican American Studies
CMAS 2301: Voices of Women of Color
CMAS 4310: Borderlands and the Black Atlantic
CMAS 4320: Gender, Migration, and Transnationalism
ARTS 3356: Barrio Art and Popular Culture
ARTS 1361: Art Appreciation
CMAS 5310: Ethnographic Methods Capstone
SOCI 6315: Ethnographic Methods in Minority Communities (graduate seminar)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
Anthropology as Hauntology: Anthropolocura Across the Borderlands and the Black Atlantic (Organizer and Moderator). American Anthropological Association Meetings: November 2025.
Sanctuary as Relations: Exploring Hospitality and Protection Within and Beyond the Borderlands (Chair and Discussant). Western History Association Meetings: October 2025.
Unruly Borders: Mobility, Confinement, and Sanctuary Across the Long Duree (Panelist). Western History Association Meetings: October 2025.
50 Years Since the Farah Strike: Chicana Feminism Past, Present, and Future (Presidential Panel). National Women's Association Conference, November 2024, Detroit, Michigan
Indigenizing Borderlands: Ways of Being, Moving, and Constructing (Chair and Discussant). Western History Association Meetings, October 2024, Kansas City, Missouri
Trans Latinx Methodologies: Storywork and Spirit Praxis (Organizer and Panelist). American Anthropological Association Meetings, November 2022, Toronto, Canada
Community Transformation in Transition: Sanctuary and Futures of Immigrant Justice (Panelist). American Anthropological Association Meetings, November 2022, Toronto, Canada.
Indigeneity, Fugitivity, and Sanctuaryscapes in Bordered Lands (Panelist). Organization of American Historians: April 2023, Los Angeles, California
Disrupting Disciplinary Boundaries to Tell Stories that Matter to Communities (Panelist). Western History Association Meetings: October 2022, San Antonio, Texas
Decolonial Futures: Religion as a Source of Resistance (Panelist). American Anthropological Association Raising Our Voices Conference: November 2020 (virtual meeting)
Histories of Sanctuary and Radical Hospitality (Organizer and Panelist). Western History Association Meetings: October 2020 (virtual meeting)
Radical Histories of Sanctuary Roundtable (Panelist). American Studies Association Annual Meeting: November 2019, Honolulu, Hawaii
Mexican Migration and Immigrant Rights Activism in Southeastern New Mexico (Panelist). Labor and Working-Class History Association Meetings: May 2019, Durham, North Carolina

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS
Yale Ethnography Hub: *Ethnography and Citizenship: Global and Local Perspectives* (Invited Panelist). Yale University, February 2025
CMD Colloquium Series: *The Borders Crossed Us Too: Intersections of Indigenous and Immigrant Experiences* (Panelist). Princeton University, December 2023.
Shannon Lecture Series: *Sanctuary's Unruly Subjects: Dissidents, Fugitives, and Refugees in Post-Civil Rights America.* Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, November 2023.

Anthropolocura as Methodology: Research, Activism, and Unruly Subjects. Keynote Presentation. Anthropology Research Conference, Texas State University, May 2023.
The Politics of Exclusion and the Protocols of Resistance: Understanding the Political Landscape of 21st-Century Texas. WHA/Texas Public Radio, October 2022
Sanctuary Beyond Enclosures: Migration, Asylum and Exile in the US-Mexico Borderlands. 56TH Annual Walter Prescott Webb Lecture Series, University of Texas at Arlington, April 2022
Anthropolocura as Homework. Mexico Center, University of Texas at San Antonio, May 2022
Social Art Practice: Rewriting the Script. Southern Methodist University, April 2021
Sanctuaryscapes in the New Mexico Borderlands. Center for Regional Studies, UNM July 2021
Anthropolocura as Homeplace Ethnography. Seminar: Harvard Divinity School, April 2021
Ethnographies of Resistance and Contestation in Latinx America. Advanced Seminar, School of Advanced Research, Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
2024 – present Texas State University Chapter President, AAUP
2022 – 2025 Federal Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names, Department of the Interior, Appointed by Secretary of Interior, Deb Haaland
2021 – 2022 Exhibition Advisory Committee: *Traitor, Survivor, Icon: The Legacy of La Malinche*, San Antonio Museum of Art
2020 – 2021 New Mexico Department of Education Social Studies Advisory Committee
2018 – present Texas Ethnic Studies Network
2015 – present NACCS Committee on Implementing MAS in Texas Public Schools
2015 – 2018 Anthropology News, ALLA Section Contributing Editor
2013 – 2016 American Anthropological Association: ALLA Book Award Committee
2016 – 2017 Texas State Board of Education Ad-Hoc Committee on Mexican American Studies
2016 – 2017 Puente Project: Ethnic Studies Curriculum Developer
2011 – 2012 Sites of Conscience Consultant, New Mexico History Museum, Santa Fe, NM

COMMUNITY SERVICE
2014 – present Somos MAS: Regional Mexican American Studies Collective
2023 – 2024 San Antonio Immigrant Welcome Coalition
2015 – 2020 Tallercito de Son (Son Jarocho Performance Group)
2020 – 2024 Los MENtirosos Chicanx Drag King Collective
2021 – present Son Queers (Son Jarocho Performance Group)
2015 – 2016 Board Member, San Anto Cultural Arts
2010 – 2014 Immigration Policy Committee, *Somos Un Pueblo Unido*, Santa Fe, New Mexico