

Silvia Soto, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

American Indian Studies
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1204 W. Nevada Street, Urbana, IL 61801
sisoto@illinois.edu

EDUCATION

- 2015 Ph.D., University of California, Davis
Native American Studies
- 2005 M.A., University of New Mexico
Latin American Studies
- 1996 B.A., University of California, Davis
Spanish and Sociology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2017-Present Visiting Assistant Professor, American Indian Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2015-2017 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow, American Indian Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Unstoppable Clamor: The Reconstruction of a Mayan World in Chiapas post 1994, book manuscript under review by the University of Arizona Press

Book chapters:

“A World Where Many Worlds Fit: Zapatismo and the Reconstruction of a Mayan World in Chiapas” forthcoming, Northwestern University Press

Journal articles:

“Liberation Theology and the Resurgence of a Mayan Indigenous Consciousness,” under consideration by journal, *RIAS - Review of International American Studies*

“Rebuilding a Mayan World: Awakening, Presence, and Possibilities” in *TRANSMODERNITY: Journal of Peripheral Cultural Production of the Luso-Hispanic World*, Volume 7, Issue 1, 2017, 166-188

“Ojos Negros: Personal Essay” in *As/Us: A Space for Women in the World*, Issue 6, Volume 6, Spring 2016, 76-82

Translations:

Book translation Tsotsil-English of *Chano bats 'ik k'op. Aprenda Tsotsil* by Mariano Reynaldo Vázquez López, Mexico: CELALI, 2010, in progress

Dissertation translation English-Spanish of *Unstoppable Clamor: The Re-construction of a Mayan World in Chiapas* by Silvia Soto, University of California, Davis, 2015, in progress

Book reviews:

Review of *Chiapas Maya Awakening: Contemporary Poems and Short Stories*, by Sean S. Sell and Nicolás Huet Bautista (eds.), in *NAIS: Journal of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association*, Vol 5.1, 2018

Review of *Mayan Tales from Chiapas, Mexico* by Robert M. Laughlin, *Journal of American Indian Higher Education*, Feb 21, 2016, 27-3

Review of *Auroras of the Zapatistas: Local & Global Struggles of the Fourth World War* by Midnight Notes Collective, eds., *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*, Sp. 2005, vol. 29, no. 1, 227-229

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 CLACS Faculty Grant, “The Interminable Wound: Reading Rebellion in Contemporary Mayan Literature of Chiapas.” Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
- 2015-2017 Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow, American Indian Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
- 2013-2014 Native American Studies Block Grant, University of California, Davis
- 2012 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention
- 2010 Davis Humanities Institute Summer Research Stipend, UC Davis
- 2009 Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Grant, Honorable Mention
- 2008-2009 Hemispheric Institute of the Americas Summer Research Grant, UC Davis
- 2008-2009 Native American Studies Block Grant, UC Davis
- 2007-2008 Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, UC Davis
- 2006-2007 Native American Studies Block Grant, UC Davis
- 2006-2007 Chicana/Latina Research Center Grant, UC Davis
- 2005-2007 UC Mexus-Conacyt Grants for Collaborative Projects (group grant)
- 2005-2007 Pacific Rim Research Grant (group grant)
- 2005-2006 Chicana/Latina Research Cluster Award, UC Davis
- 2003-2004 Research, Project and Travel Grant (RPT), University of New Mexico

INVITED TALKS

“*The interminable wound*”: *Reading rebellion in contemporary Mayan literature of Chiapas*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Urbana, Illinois, September 24, 2018

“*The interminable wound*”: *Reading rebellion in contemporary Mayan literature of Chiapas*, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, February 28, 2018

Latinx and Indigeneity: Beginning the Conversation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, MeCha de UIUC, Urbana, IL, April 26, 2017

Rebuilding a Mayan World in Chiapas: Awakening, Presence, and Possibilities, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Native American House, Urbana, IL, February 19, 2016

El Arte de la Traducción, Centro Estatal de Lenguas, Arte y Literatura Indígenas (CELALI), San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, México, March 9, 2016

“*A World Where Many Worlds Fit: Zapatismo and the Reconstruction of a Post 1994 Mayan World in Chiapas*,” University of Wyoming Latina/o Studies Speaker Series, Laramie, WY, October 20, 2015

“*Putting the ‘I’ in Identity: Growing up Latina in Wyoming*,” Wyoming Latina Youth Conference, Cheyenne, WY, October 17, 2015

CONFERENCES

“End of world, end of cycle: Breathing life into Indigenous mobilizations of the Americas,” *Build As We Fight*, American Studies Association (ASA), Honolulu, Hawai’i, November 7-10, 2019

“La herida interminable,” *Literaturas Mayas y la historización de sus vivencias*,” *III Conferencia Internacional Sobre Literatura Centroamericana Contemporánea*, Ciudad de Guatemala, 16-19 de Julio 2019

“Time, prayer and the renewal of spirit in contemporary Mayan poetry,” *Annual Meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)*, Los Angeles, California, May 17-19, 2018

“Liberation Theology and the Resurgence of a Mayan Indigenous Consciousness,” *Pedagogies of Dissent*, American Studies Association (ASA), Chicago, Illinois, November 9-12, 2017

“Zapatismo and the building blocks of ‘a world where many worlds fit,’” *Violence and Indigenous Communities: Confronting the Past, Engaging the Present* Newberry Symposium, Chicago, Illinois, May 12-13, 2017

“Mayan women of Chiapas Post 1994,” *Home/Not Home: Centering American Studies Where We Are*, American Studies Association (ASA), Denver, Colorado, November 17-20, 2016

“Las nuevas voces de Chiapas: expresiones de poetas y artistas Mayas,” *Simposio de Filosofía y pueblos originarios*, *XVIII Congreso Internacional de la Asociación Filosófica de México*

“Pluralidad, Justicia, Paz,” San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, October 24-28, 2016

“Rebuilding a Mayan World in Chiapas: Awakening, Presence, and Possibilities,” *6th Annual Postdoctoral Research Symposium*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, February 5, 2016

“Rebuilding a Mayan World: Awakening, Presence, and Possibilities,” *Annual Meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)*, Washington, D.C., June 4-6, 2015

“Rebuilding a Mayan World: Awakening, Presence, and Possibilities,” *Precariedades, exclusiones, emergencias*, XXXIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 27-30, 2015

“The Power of the Word and the Resurgence of an Indigenous Consciousness,” *Weaving the Roots of Knowledge: 2nd Annual Native American Studies Graduate Student Symposium*, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA, April 26-27, 2013

“*Mayanism: The Resurgence of Indigenous Intellectualism in Guatemala in the work of Victor Montejo*,” *Fourth Meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)*, Mohegan Sun Conference, Uncasville, CT, June 3-6, 2012

“*Mayanism: The Resurgence of Indigenous Intellectualism in Guatemala in the Work of Victor Montejo*,” *Engaging the Indigenous Americas: 1st Annual Native American Studies Graduate Student Symposium*, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA, April 13, 2012

“The Power of Word in the Struggles for Autonomy,” *22nd Annual Mujeres Activas en Letras and Cambio Social (MALCS) Summer Institute*, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, July 22-25, 2009

“The Power of Word in the Struggles for Autonomy,” *First Meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)*, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN, May 21-23, 2009

“Between the Self and the Community: Indigenous Organizing in Mexico *Profundo*,” *Who Are We? Where Are We Going?* Native American and Indigenous Studies Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, April 10-12, 2008

“Culture, Resistance and Autonomy: Local Responses of Indigenous and Afrodescendant Communities of the Costa Chica of Oaxaca to Neo-liberal Expansion,” *After the Washington Consensus: Collaborative Scholarship for a New America XXVII International Congress*, Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Montréal, Canada, September 5-8, 2007

“Comunidades re-imaginadas: la re-conceptualización cultural de la identidad territorial en la Costa Chica de Oaxaca,” *Séptimo Simposio Internacional de Estudios Oaxaqueños*, Universidad Regional del Sureste, Oaxaca, Oaxaca, Mexico, August 2-4, 2007

“Re-imagined communities: the cultural reconceptualization of territorial identity in the Costa Chica of Oaxaca,” *What's Next for Native American and Indigenous Studies?* An International Scholarly Meeting, Native American Studies, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, May 3-5, 2007

“Opening Spaces for Autonomous Self-Management: The case of Chiapas and Oaxaca,”
Decolonizing Ourselves: Reconceptualizing Our Lives, Womyn of Color Conference, University
of California Davis, Davis, CA, April 13-15, 2007

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, American Indian Studies

Indigenous Critical Theory, AIS 501, “Zapatismo,” guest lecture, March 1, 2016

Indigenous Thinkers, AIS 285, Spring 2018

Indigenous Thinkers, AIS 285, “Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN): History and
Development of an Insurgency,” guest lecture, November 11, 2016

Introduction to American Indian Literature, AIS 265, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019

Introduction to American Indian Studies, AIS 101, Fall 2017 and Fall 2018 (two sections);
Spring 2019, Fall 2019 (three sections)

Introduction to American Indian Studies, AIS 101, “Zapatista National Liberation Army
(EZLN): History and Development of an Insurgency,” guest lecture, March 28, 2016

University of California, Davis, Native American Studies

Introduction to Native American Literature, NAS 5, “Hemispheric approach to Indigenous
Literature,” Associate Instructor, Winter 2015, Fall 2014, Summer Session II 2014, Spring 2014,
Winter 2014, Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Winter 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Winter 2012,
Summer Session II 2010, Spring 2010, Winter 2010, Fall 2009, Summer Session II 2009, Spring
2009

Introduction to Native American Studies, NAS 1, “Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN):
History and Development of an Insurgency,” guest lecture, May 2013

Literary and Social Movements, NAS 184 and 199, Teaching Assistant, University of California
Summer Abroad, Chiapas, Mexico, Summer Session 2008 and 2012

Native American Experience, NAS 10, Winter 2009, Spring 2007, Winter 2006, Fall 2005

University of California, Davis, History

Mexican-American History since 1910, History 169B, Reader, Winter 2008

University of California, Davis, Chicana/o Studies

“Crossing Borders: A personal testimony,” Chicano Studies 130, guest lecture, Summer Sessions
II, 2012

“Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN): History and Development of an Insurgency, ”
Chicana/o Studies 10, guest lecture, Winter 2006

University of California, Davis, African American and African Studies

“Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN): History and Development of an Insurgency,” African American and African Studies 180, guest lecture, Winter 2006

University of New Mexico, Spanish and Portuguese,

Intermediate Spanish I, Spanish 201, Graduate Student Instructor, Spring 2005

Elementary Spanish I, Spanish 101, Graduate Student Instructor, Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Fall 2004

RELEVANT RESEARCH PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Home Lost, workshop participant, the Dartmouth South-South Forum’s First Annual Workshop, Dartmouth College, August 12-16, 2019

Race Work in the Classics Workshop: Race, Gender, and Indigeneity, session chair, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 22, 2019

Reading rebellion in contemporary Mayan literature of Chiapas, field researcher, Chiapas, Mexico, Summer 2018

Encuentro Internacional, Político, Artístico, Deportivo y Cultural de Mujeres que Luchan, asistente, Caracol de Morelia, zona de Tzotz Choj, Chiapas, México, Marzo 8-10, 2018

Critical Muslim Studies: Decolonial Struggles and Liberation Theologies, participant, Summer School in Cape Town, South Africa, January 14-20, 2018

Maya/Indigenous Working Group, member, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, August 2017-2019

The New New Left, IPRH Research Cluster, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH), member, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2017-2018

Center of Study and Investigation for Decolonial Dialogues, “Critical Muslim Studies: Decolonial Struggles and Liberation Theologies,” participant, Summer School in Granada, Spain, July 3-14, 2017

Center of Study and Investigation for Decolonial Dialogues, “Decolonizing Knowledge and Power: Postcolonial Studies, Decolonial Horizons,” participant, Summer School in Barcelona, Spain, July 11-21, 2016

First Book Writing Group (FBWG), participant, Office of the Vice Chancellor and Research (OVCOR), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2015-2016

Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History of the Americas, Tepoztlán, Morelos, Mexico, participant and commentator, July 31-August 5, 2012

“Reading Knowledges: Stories and memories of Indigenous Women of Chiapas post 1994,” field researcher, Chiapas, Mexico, Fall 2011 and Spring 2016

“Native American/Indigenous Studies Across Borders: Capacity Building for Graduate Study in California, Mexico and Guatemala,” Graduate Student Researcher, United States Department of State Grant, Native American Studies, University of California, Davis, 2010-2011

Estudios Culturales en las Américas Research Cluster, member, Davis Humanities Institute, University of California, Davis, 2008-2009

“Indigenous Poets of Mexico and the United States,” Graduate Student Researcher, Native American Studies, University of California, Davis, Summer Sessions I 2009, Winter 2009, Fall 2008, Spring 2008, Winter 2008, Fall 2007, Winter 2007, Fall 2006, Spring 2006

“Opening the Pacific Frontier: Community Responses to Neo-Liberal Reterritorialization in Colombia and Mexico,” Graduate Student Researcher, Pacific Rim Research Program, African American and African Studies and Native American Studies, University of California, Davis and Oaxaca, Mexico, 2005-2007

“Desarrollo, ambiente y migración en las comunidades indígenas y afroestizas de la Costa Chica de Oaxaca. Diagnóstico y modelo socio-ecológico,” Graduate Student Researcher, UC Mexus-Conacyt Collaborative Projects, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and Native American Studies, University of California, Davis, 2005-2007

Acción Zapatista Davis, co-founder, Davis, California, 2007-2009

Acción Zapatista, member, Berkeley and Oakland, California, 2006-2009

Purhépecha for non-native speakers’ language course, participant, Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, México, July 2006

Purhépecha Research Cluster, founder and member, Chicana/Latina Research Center, University of California, Davis and Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, Mexico, 2005-2006

Semilla de Corazón, co-founder, Oakland, California and Chiapas, Mexico, June 2005-present

Chiapas Support Committee, collective member, Oakland, California and Chiapas, Mexico, March 2001-March 2005

University of New Mexico-Chiapas Delegation, co-organizer, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Chiapas, Mexico, Spring 2004

Inter-American Dialogue, student intern, University of California-Washington D.C. Program (UCDC), Washington D.C., Fall 1995

Democratic National Convention, observant, Guadalupe Tepeyac EZLN autonomous community, Chiapas, Mexico, August 6-9, 1994

University of California, Education Abroad Program, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City, Mexico, 1993-1994

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Awards Committee, College of Liberal Arts & Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, committee member, 2018-2019

Curriculum Committee, American Indian Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, committee member, 2018-2019

External Reviewer, 2017, *Native American and Indigenous Studies* (NAIS), the Journal of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), annual meeting, University of California, Davis (Sacramento, California), 2010-2011, planning committee member

Discursive Practices: The Formation of a Transnational Indigenous Poetics, Native American Studies Hemispheric Conference, 2007-2008, University of California, Davis, planning committee member

Graduate Student Representative to Graduate Student Association, University of California, Davis, 2006-2007

Teaching Assistant Training Workshop, Native American Studies, University of California, Davis, planning committee, 2005-2006

Student Organization for Latin American Studies (SOLAS), University of New Mexico, Vice-president 2004-2005 and member 2003-2005

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Native speaker

English: near-native speaker

Tsotsil Maya: basic lexical understanding

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)

American Studies Association (ASA)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Ethnicity, Race, and Indigenous Peoples (ERIP) section of LASA

References available upon request