

Poster Presentations

Session 1

Friday, April 4, 4:45 - 6:15 PM

Dallana Cartagena Flores - Virginia Tech, "The United States' Involvement in the Salvadoran Civil War"

Kathryn Sederberg - Kalamazoo College
"I Have Spent These Months with You: Family Separation in Refugee Diaries of German and Austrian Jewish Exiles"

Ayisha Surani - Virginia Tech, "Framed By War: Refugees as Human Shields"

Mercer Oral History Posters and Listening Stations

Oral Histories of Good Samaritan Haitian Alliance Church
Mariam Ba, Papa Guerrero, Taleen Hanna, Ibrahim Ijaduola, Norma Jones, Grace Kouassi, Emily Morkeh, Cynthia Osorio-Magana, Ethan Pellegrino, Jason Tha Siam Lian

Oral Histories of Latin Americans in Middle Georgia
Jaeden Aliff, Thomas Bartlett, Maria Bautista, Emma Bjornstad, Bailey Byrdsong, Nancy Cifuentes-Martinez, Jasmine Cruz, Kyle Everett, Jesse Flores, Matthew Gutierrez, Jeovana Lopez, Niyati Patel, Anna Stein, Jaime Tovali-Moralez, Rafael Vaquero Covarrubias, Jennifer Vargas, Ruth Windsor

Session 2

Saturday, April 5, 12:30 - 1:30 PM

Kelly Berkson et al. – Indiana University Bloomington, "The Chin Languages Research Project: A Community of Collaboration in Indiana"

Em Em – Indiana University Bloomington, "Winding Wednesday: Building Community and Protecting Knowledge in Chin Community of Indiana"

Sui Par – Indiana University Bloomington, "Migration and Cultural Continuity: Lutuv Dress, Adornment, and Foodways in Diaspora"

Sui Hnem Par, Amanda Bohnert, Dillon Smith, Em Em – Indiana University of Bloomington, "Social Media as a Tool for Language Maintenance in Diaspora"

Guest Speakers

Samuel Johnson was eight years old when he fled the Liberian civil war. After eight years in a refugee camp, he was resettled in Georgia. In 2015 he founded My Vision for Refugees and built an orphanage in N'zérékoré, Guinea. In August 2020 he received the annual Friend of Freedom Award from New American Pathways refugee resettlement agency in Atlanta. A 2013 Mercer alumnus, Johnson received his degree in French, Women and Gender Studies, Political Science, and International Affairs.

Lizbeth De La Cruz Santana is a cultural worker and interdisciplinary qualitative Latinx public scholar specializing in contemporary migration processes. Her current research project examines childhood arrival migrants to the United States. She focuses on digital storytelling, testimonial literature, and diaspora studies. She received her PhD from the University of California, Davis, and holds a degree in Latin American Literatures and Cultures with a designated emphasis on Human Rights. In 2023, she began her career as an Assistant Professor in Chicano/a/x Studies at the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, Black and Latino Studies Department at Baruch College.

Marcelo Hernandez Castillo is the author of *Children of the Land: a Memoir; Cenzontle*, which was the winner of the A. Poulin, Jr. prize; and *Dulce*, winner of the Drinking Gourd Prize. He is a founding member of the Undocupoets, which eliminated citizenship requirements from all major poetry book prizes in the U.S. and was recognized with the Barnes and Noble Writers for Writers award. He was the first undocumented student to graduate from the Helen Zell Writers Program at the University of Michigan. He teaches in the creative writing program at St. Mary's University, and the Ashland Low-Res MFA Program, as well as poetry workshops for incarcerated youth in Northern California as the Yuba and Sutter County poet laureate.

Humanities Conference on Refugee and Immigrant Studies



Logo by Ana Mena

Mercer University
April 4-5, 2025

Sponsors

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of World Languages and Cultures
Office of the Dean of Chapel
Communication Theory Research Lab

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 4

2:00 - 3:00 PM | Arrival and Registration (Coffee and Refreshments), CSC 3

3:00 - 4:30 PM | Panel 1, CSC 2

4:45 - 6:15 PM | Poster Presentations, Session 1, CSC 1

6:30 PM | Opening Remarks; Mentorship Dinner, Penfield. Students discuss careers with faculty and professionals

Centro Comunitario Hispano, Haitian Bridge Alliance, International Rescue Committee, Jubilee Partners, New American Pathways

7:30 PM | Keynote address by Samuel Johnson, Penfield

Introduced by John Dunaway

Conference Organizers

Libertad Aranza and Katie Roseau
Jaiden Aliff, Sara Brito, Andres Davila, Papa Guerrero, and Cynthia Osorio-Magana

Schedule of Events

Saturday, April 5

8:00 - 9:00 AM | Breakfast, CSC 3

9:00 - 10:30 AM | Panel 2, CSC 1

10:30 - 10:45 AM | Coffee Break

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM | Panel 3, CSC 2

12:30 - 1:20 PM | Poster Presentations, Session 2, CSC 1

A boxed lunch will be available at 12:30pm in CSC 3. Participants can continue eating during the 1:30pm session.

1:30 - 3:00 PM | "Painting the Humanizing Deportation Archive," a special session led by Lizbeth De La Cruz Santana, CSC 1

*Introduced by Lauren Dodaro
Greetings by Craig McMahan*

3:00 - 3:15 PM | Coffee Break

3:15 - 4:45 PM | Panel 4, CSC 1

5:00 - 6:45 PM | Reading by Marcelo Hernandez Castillo, CSC 1

*Introduced by Tiffany M. B. Anderson
Closing Remarks*

Oral Presentations

Panel 1 Friday, April 4, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Moderator: Laura Simon

Sarah Williams - University of North Georgia, "Breaking Barriers, Building Futures: An Impact Study of an All-Girls Resettlement School"

Shantrice Jones & Darlene Xiomara Rodriguez - Kennesaw State University, "Building Peace for Immigrants: A Case Study of Welcoming America"

Shreyoshi Ghoshray - Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies (IIDS), USA, "The Dynamics of Post-Modern Immigration in the American Northeast"

Panel 2 Saturday, April 5, 9:00 - 10:30 AM

Moderator: Matthew Harper

Casimiro Leco-Tomas - Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo-México, "Forced displacement, political exile, and indigenous contract workers from Michoacán, Mexico to the United States"

Julie Orme, Ginger Williams, & Karime Cowan Quijada - Winthrop University, "A Phenomenological Study Exploring Motivations for Migration at the US-Mexico border"

Panel 3 Saturday, April 5, 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

Moderator: Arielle Stambler

Ina Seethaler - Coastal Carolina University, "The Humanizing Power of Refugee Life Writing"

Irene Kuo - Wake Forest University, "Inflicting Form: Poetic Displacement in Ramy Al-Asheq's Ever Since I Did Not Die."

Alana Alvarez - Mercer University, "Marielito 2.0: Venezuelan Migrants as Political Revenge"

Panel 4 Saturday, April 5, 3:15 - 4:45 PM

Moderator: Clara Mengolini

Kelly Berkson et al. - Indiana University Bloomington, "The Chin Languages Research Project: A Community of Collaboration in Indiana"

Amalia Robinson - Indiana University, "Multilingual Language Use and Language Attitudes: Perspectives from Young Adults in the Chin Refugee Community from Burma (Myanmar) in Indianapolis, Indiana"