Greetings from American Studies at Amherst College. It is nearly the end of Fall semester and the leaves are already covering the granite steps of Morgan Hall after that usual spectacular Fall display you remember from your time here.

There is much exciting news to share about American Studies at Amherst as we have undergone important transitions heading into our eighth decade as a department. Over the last several years, we have worked hard to evaluate our major so it engages the most current debates in the field of American Studies and is based in sound methodological and research training. The addition of several new faculty members to the department, in particular, has bolstered our focus on race, ethnicity, transnationalism, migration and globalization. Since 2012, we have been fortunate to add scholars in both Native American Studies and Latino Studies. Native Studies specialists, Associate Professor Lisa Brooks and Assistant Professor Kiara Vigil, joined our department in 2012. In addition, Associate Professor Solsiree Del Moral joined the department in 2013, followed last year by Associate Professor Leah Schmalzbauer. Professors Schmalzbauer and Del Moral have brought a rich set of courses to students interested in Latino Studies. (Read their introduction to the program, following).

This semester the department is offering the following courses: Puerto Rican Migration, American Jewish Keywords, Native American Literature, Immigration and the New Latino Second Generation, American Origins, Race and Public History/Memory, and Globalization, Inequality and Social Change.
Some of you recall our American Studies 11 and 12 classes: thematically-based courses that introduced students to the major. In the Fall of 2012, we rolled out a new introductory course, The Global Valley. This course immerses students in the cultural, social, economic and even geologic history of the Connecticut River Valley and includes field trips to Historic Deerfield, Holyoke, Mt. Sugarloaf/The Great Beaver, and, of course, The Dickinson Homestead. The course has been a thrill to design and teach. Whether it is listening to Abenaki poet Cheryl Savageau (pictured on left) read her poems on Mt. Sugarloaf, discussing former department member and College President William Ward's legacy with his biographer, or meeting with Holyoke community members in a local restaurant, the course provides students with rich opportunities to learn outside the walls of the classroom.

We have also revised the major by mandating a community-based learning component, the only major at Amherst to institute such a requirement. Majors must take one class with a significant community-based learning component, and we therefore developed a new course, Building Communities, which we have offered for the last four years.

Students, or more notably parents, often ask me, "What can I do with an American Studies major?" I tell them, "Anything!" Looking at the impressive range of occupations and titles you alumni hold, it is obvious that I am not selling snake oil. The critical thinking and reading skills and openness to creativity that the major provides equip our graduates with knowledge and skills that are valuable and widely applicable.

We would love to hear from you. Please send along any news you would like to share. We keep in touch with many of you, but it is always a pleasure to hear from our former alumni. Feel free to contact me with any questions or further information, including how you can help support some of our ongoing efforts to keep Amherst American Studies strong for years to come.
Sincerely,
Robert T. Hayashi
Associate Professor, Chair

FRANKLIN ODO, JOHN J McCLOY PROFESSOR

The American Studies Department is honored to have Dr. Franklin Odo join us for a two-year appointment. Dr. Odo is a pioneering figure in Asian American Studies and his career includes work both in academe and the federal government.

He received his M.A. from Harvard in East Asian Studies and his Ph.D. from Princeton in History. He has held appointments at California State University, Long Beach and the University of Hawaii, where he chaired the Ethnic Studies Department. He has also held appointments at Brown University, Princeton University, and Columbia University. From 1997 to 2010, Dr. Odo was Director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian Institution and during that period also Curator at the National Museum of History, where he helped to plan and curate major exhibitions on Asian Pacific American history. Dr. Odo has received numerous awards for his contributions to the APA community, including the Leadership Award from the Japanese American Citizens League, Distinguished Service Award from the Asian American Justice Center, Leadership Award from the Organization of Chinese Americans, and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Asian American Studies. His most recent publication, Voices from the Canefields: Folksongs from Japanese Immigrant Workers in Hawai`i (Oxford University Press, 2013), was the basis for the PBS documentary, Canefield Songs: Hole Hole Bushi. The film was recently screened on campus, followed by a lively panel discussion with Dr. Odo and members of the film's production team: Chris Conybeare and Joy Chong-Stannard.
Retirements

In 2015 two of our beloved colleagues retired from Amherst.

Carol Clark, William McCall Professor of the History of Art and American Studies Vickery 1957 earned her B.A. in History and M.A. in the History of Art from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in the History of Art from Case Western Reserve University. Professor Clark joined the Amherst faculty in 1984 and taught courses in American art, in particular those focused on public art and American art of the 19th century. Her publications include, Charles Deas and 1840s America (University of Oklahoma Press, 2009), which in 2011 won the Western History Association’s Joan Patterson Kerr Award, an award that recognizes the best illustrated book on the history of the American West. Carol’s passionate lecturing on art in the classroom and gallery was infectious and, as one former student noted, her retirement has inflicted a crippling blow to the sense of style on campus.

Jan Dizard, Charles Hamilton Houston Professor in American Culture joined the Amherst faculty in 1969 after earning an M.A. and Ph.D. from University of Chicago. For the last several years of his career at Amherst, he taught courses focused on the environment and worked arduously to establish Amherst’s Environmental Studies program, which has now become a thriving major. In recognition of Jan’s contribution to Environmental Studies, that department established the Jan E. Dizard Prize in Environmental Studies, awarded annually to the graduating senior who
exemplifies the field of environmental studies in academic work.

His publications include *Going Wild: Hunting, Animal Rights and the Contested Meaning of Nature* (University of Massachusetts Press, 1994) and *Mortal Stakes: Hunting in Contemporary America* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2003). We will all miss Jan's humor and remarkable leadership skills. And we do hope to still receive dinner invitations so that we can enjoy his company and a sumptuous repast of gamebirds he has harvested.

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**LATINO STUDIES AT AMHERST COLLEGE**

**FACULTY**

**Solsiree del Moral** is an Associate Professor of American Studies and Black Studies. She joined the faculty at Amherst College in the fall of 2013. Professor Del Moral’s courses examine the experiences of Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Cubans in the Caribbean and the United States. She is interested in the relationship between U.S. Empire, migration, and diaspora formation. Professor Del Moral’s courses broadly examine how race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality inform the process of community formation both locally and transnationally. Her book, *Negotiating Empire: The Cultural Politics of Schools in Puerto Rico, 1898–1952* (Wisconsin, 2013), is a study of Puerto Rican teachers in the island schools of the early twentieth century. She has also published several articles on U.S. Empire, colonial education, and Puerto Rican history.

**Leah Schmalzbauer** is an Associate Professor of American Studies and Sociology. She joined the faculty of Amherst College in the fall of 2014. Professor Schmalzbauer’s courses explore transnational migration between Mexico and Central America and the United States. She is particularly interested in the ways in which immigration status intersects with race, class and gender to produce and reproduce inequalities within communities and families. Prof. Schmalzbauer is the author of two community-based ethnographies, *Striving and Surviving: A Daily Life Analysis of Honduran Transnational Families* (Routledge 2005), and *The Last Best Place?: Gender, Family and Migration in the New West* (Stanford University Press 2014), along with several articles. She is also a co-author, with Cecilia Menjivar and Leisy
Abrego, of *Immigrant Families*, which will be published by Polity in 2016 as part of their Immigration & Society series.

**LATINO STUDIES IN THE AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

At 17.4 percent of the US population, Latinos comprise the nation's largest "minority." Of the 55.4 million Latinos, the vast majority (76 percent) are U.S. citizens by birth (65 percent) or naturalization (11 percent).

What is their history? Latinos of Mexican descent have roots in the southwest dating to the seventeenth century, while others from the Caribbean began arriving in the mid-nineteenth. In the twentieth century, U.S. immigration and foreign policies shaped migration patterns. The vast majority of recent arrivals from Central and South America come fleeing war, political persecution and economic dislocation.

American Studies offers a variety of interdisciplinary Latino Studies courses providing students the opportunity to learn more about the rich and diverse experiences of these Americans. Professor Del Moral teaches the history of Latinos in the United States since the nineteenth century, with a focus on the Caribbean region. Professor Schmalzbauer, a Sociologist, examines the ways in which macro-structural inequalities (economic and political) play out in the daily life experiences of Central American and Mexican immigrants and their families. Latino Studies encompasses critical concepts, such as empire, migration, diaspora, neoliberalism, globalization, and transnationalism. In addition, Latino Studies explores the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, immigration status and class.

**COURSES**

The American Studies Department offers eight Latino Studies courses. In addition to the courses listed below, several other American Studies courses offer material on Latinos, immigration, and U.S. history.

**American Studies 226:** Latino Migration: Labor, Lifestyle and Legality

**American Studies 305:** Gender, Migration and Power: Latinos in the Americas

**American Studies 310:** Spanish-speaking Caribbean Diasporas

**American Studies 311:** Race and Nation: The History of Hispaniola

**American Studies 315:** The War of 1898: US Empire in the Caribbean and Pacific
American Studies 316: Afro-Latinos
American Studies 317: History of Puerto Rico: Colony, Nation, & Diaspora
American Studies 326: Immigration and the New Latino Second Generation


**FALL 2015 LATINO STUDIES SPEAKER SERIES**

In the fall of 2015, the American Studies Department is hosting two Latino Studies guest speakers. We hope you can join us for a rich and engaging discussion.

**Leisy Abrego, PhD, Sociology, University of California Los Angeles**
Associate Professor of Chicana/o Studies, UCLA
Presentation: "Sacrificing Families: Navigating Laws, Labor and Love Across Borders"
Tuesday, October 20, 5pm on October 20, Pruyn Room

**Patricia Silver, PhD, Cultural Anthropology, American University**
Visiting scholar, The Center for Place, Culture, and Politics, CUNY Graduate Center
Presentation: "Sunshine Politics: Puerto Rican Memory and the Political in New Destinations"
Wednesday, December 2, 2:30pm, Pruyn Auditorium

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**RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS**

**Lisa Brooks**


"Introduction," (and section editor), Abenaki Literature, *Dawnland Voices: An Anthology of Indigenous Writing from New England*, edited by Siobhan Senier,
Frank Couvares

Robert Hayashi


Leah Schmalzbauer

The Last Best Place?: Gender, Family and Migration in the New West, (Stanford University Press, 2014).

Kiara Vigil