

# DR. MIRIAM MELTON-VILLANUEVA

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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miriam.melton-villanueva@unlv.edu  
702.895.3349

4505 S. Maryland Parkway Box 455020  
Las Vegas, Nevada, 89154-5020

## EDUCATION

- 2012 Ph.D. in History, University of California, Los Angeles  
Dissertation: *The Nahuas at Independence: Indigenous communities of the Metepec area (Toluca Valley) in the first decades of the nineteenth century*  
Committee: Kevin Terraciano (chair), James Lockhart (co-chair), Teofilo Ruiz, Robin Derby, Claudia Parodi, John Pohl
- 2008 C. Phil. in History, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2008 M.A. in History, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2004 B.A. in Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2012-present)  
Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, UCLA (2014-2015)

## RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Ethnohistory; notarial records; Nahuatl language testaments; indigenous women and *cacicacas*; local development of Mexican Spanish; local religious practices; indigenous communities of the Late Colonial and Independence periods in Latin America, Mesoamerica, Highland Central Mexico, and Metepec region of the Toluca Valley.

## COURSES

- History of Mexico
- World History
- Colonial Latin American History
- Latin American Ethnicities

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Melton-Villanueva, Miriam** (2011). On Her Deathbed: Beyond the Stereotype of the Powerless Indigenous Woman. In Erin E. O'Connor and Leo J. Garofalo, eds. *Documenting Latin America: Gender, Race, and Empire, vol. 1* (168-173). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

**Melton-Villanueva, Miriam** and Caterina Pizzigoni (2008). Late Nahuatl Testaments from the Toluca Valley: Indigenous-Language Ethnohistory in the Mexican Independence Period. *Ethnohistory*, 55:3 (summer), 361-391.

## *MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION*

**Melton-Villanueva, Miriam.** Serving Saints in the Household: Obligations of inherited land in Nahua society of the early 19th century.

**Melton-Villanueva, Miriam.** ‘The Nahuas at Independence: Culture keeping in Central Mexico 1700-1932’ book manuscript in progress. Invited to submit to University of Arizona Press.

## *AWARDS AND HONORS*

- 2014 Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Research Council
- 2012 Selected Alternate, University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2011 Constance Coiner Graduate Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching and a Commitment to Teaching as Activism, UCLA Center for the Study of Women
- 2011 Dissertation Fellow, UCLA History Department 2011-2012
- 2010 Teaching Fellow, UCLA History Department 2010-2011
- 2010 UCLA History Department Research Travel Grant
- 2009 Ford Foundation Fellow, Dissertation Competition
- 2009 Mellon Summer Institute in Paleography, Participant Researcher in The Huntington Library, July-August
- 2009 Pre-Dissertation Fellow, UCLA History Department, 2008-2009
- 2008 National Academies Foreign Language Area Study Summer Grant/FLAS
- 2008 Graduate Student Research Mentorship Summer Fellow, UCLA Graduate Division
- 2008 Latin American Center Research Grant
- 2008 UCLA History Department Summer Research Grant
- 2008 Selected Alternate, Ford Foundation Diversity Fellow, National Research Council of The National Academies
- 2007 Graduate Student Research Mentorship Year Fellow, UCLA Graduate Division
- 2007 National Academies Foreign Language Area Study Summer Grant/FLAS
- 2007 History Department Research Grant, UCLA
- 2007 Selected Alternate, Ford Foundation Diversity Fellow, National Research Council of The National Academies
- 2006 First Place for Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences. Statewide Finals of California State University Student Research Competition, California State University Channel Islands, May 2006
- 2006 Stuart L. Bernath Prize for Best Historical Essay, California State University Long Beach History Department
- 2006 First Place Award for Outstanding Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences. California State University Long Beach, March 2006

## *ARCHIVAL AND FIELD RESEARCH*

Mexico State. Field and archival research in parish and notarial archives, 2013.

San Bartolomé Tlatelolco, Mexico State: Dissertation research and interviews at the parish church, and with the Municipal Historian, 2008, 2012.

The Huntington Library: Mellon Paleography Institute, advanced archival training, July-August 2009

Metepec, the State of Mexico: The Parish Archive of the Convento de San Juan Bautista, found and collected unknown Nahuatl language testaments, 2005, 2007, 2008.

Toluca, the State of Mexico: Archivo General de Notarías, collected provincial colonial notarial records relating to women from indigenous communities, 2006, 2008, 2012.

UCLA: Nahuatl language interdisciplinary research group led by Dr. Kevin Terraciano. Paleography, translation, and analysis of older Nahuatl, 2004-2008.

University of Zacatecas (UAZ) and Tepecxitla, Veracruz: Intensive Older and Modern Nahuatl for Non-Native Speakers. Language acquisition, paleography, and linguistic analysis, led by Dr. John Sullivan and indigenous teaching assistants, 2007 & 2008.

UCLA: *Centro de Estudios Coloniales Iberoamericanos* (CECI) created new transcriptions, paleography, modernization, and notation of colonial documents for publication, 2007-8.

University of Guanajuato, Mexico: Biblioteca Armando Olivares Carrillo, collected colonial documents from the *Colección Conventos*, 2007.

Mexico City, Mexico: Dissertation research at Archivo General de la Nación. Ramos *Hospital de Jesús, Indios, Tierras, Genealogía*, 2005, 2007, 2008.

UCLA: Cuba and Caribbean Working Group, participated in interdisciplinary lectures and workshops of guest scholars' work in progress, 2007-8.

Toluca City: Notaría #1, exploratory dissertation research of municipal archival records 2006.

Historical Archive of the Municipality of Guanajuato, Mexico: Dirección de Archivos y Fondos Históricos, collected colonial records from the Protocolo de Cabildo, 2006.

Guanajuato City Parish Archive: *Basílica Colegiata de Nuestra Señora de Guanajuato*, collected colonial baptismal records, 2005-6.

Guanajuato City Parish Archives: *Parroquias San José and Santiago de Marfil*, collected colonial marriage records, 2005.

#### ***PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED***

“Father to Son: nineteenth-century Nahua notaries mediate local identity.” Co-Organized with Margarita Ochoa at the international conference “Rethinking Inequalities,” Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 13, 2009.

#### ***PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS***

“The Religious Context of Land in Nahua Communities of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.” Paper presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS), Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 5, 2013.

“Aztec Testaments: Indigenous Archives in Central Mexico.” Paper presented, Anthropology Research Colloquium, Las Vegas, Nevada, April 15, 2013.

"Nahuatl as Normative: Testaments from the Metepec Region of the Toluca Valley, 1800-1825." Invited paper presented at the American Society for Ethnohistory conference, Pasadena, California, October 20, 2011.

Professional Round Table Discussion, Invited presenter, “Politics of Food in Mexico: Research Priorities and Analytical Approaches.” at the conference “Crisis, Response, Recovery” Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Toronto, Canada, October 7, 2010.

“Response to Crisis: Nahua Death Ritual at Independence.” Invited paper presented at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS), Boulder, Colorado, April 9, 2010.

- “Father to Son: nineteenth-century Nahua notaries mediate local identity.” Paper presented at the conference “Rethinking Inequalities,” Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 13, 2009.
- “Late Nahuatl Testaments from the Toluca Valley: Filling the Gap at Independence.” Paper presented at the conference “Tribes and Nations: Persistence and Adaptation of Indigenous Identities,” American Society for Ethnohistory, Tulsa, November 9, 2007.
- “New Tools for a New Field: Latin American Environmental History Online.” Poster presented at the conference “Living on the Edge: Human Desires and Environmental Realities,” American Society for Environmental History, Baton Rouge, March 3, 2007.
- “Otomí Women’s Authority in Late Colonial Central Mexico.” Paper presented at the conference “Commemorating Encounters: Reenactments and Reinterpretations,” American Society for Ethnohistory, Williamsburg, Virginia, November 2, 2006.
- “*Indias y Cacicas*: Women of Means; Status in Eighteenth-Century Indigenous Jilotepec Communities.” Paper presented at the Twentieth Annual California State University Student Research Competition, California State University, Channel Islands, May 6, 2006.

### ***PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS***

American Historical Association  
 American Society for Environmental History  
 American Society for Ethnohistory  
*Centro de Estudios Coloniales Iberoamericanos* (CECI)  
 Conference on Latin American History  
 Latin American Studies Association  
 Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies (PCCLAS)  
 Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies

### ***PROFESSIONAL SERVICE***

- American Society for Ethnohistory
- Conference Organizing Committee 2015
  - Conference Organizing Committee 2011
- Latin American Studies Association
- Environment Section
  - Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples Section
  - Mexico Section
- Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies (PCCLAS)
- Chair, Hubert Herring Award Committee 2010-present

### ***UNIVERSITY SERVICE***

- Latin American Institute
- Invited Dr. Stephanie Wood, University of Oregon, to present research paper on indigenous-authored manuscripts from the Spanish colonial period: “Defending the Altepetl in the Spanish Colonial Context.” University of Las Vegas Nevada, April 22, 2013.
- Member, UNLV American Indian Alliance  
 Member, UNLV Latin American Alliance