

Latinidad and Technology: Exploring Digital Borders

Saturday, April 17, 2021



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY
Center for Latino/a and
Latin American Studies



The 11th Annual La Academia del Pueblo
Latina/o/x and Latin American Studies Research Conference

Reminders



Program available in chat box



Keep microphones muted



Update name in Zoom



Land Acknowledgement

Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong, also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. With our Native neighbors, WSU can advance educational equity and promote a better future for the earth and all people.



Conference Agenda

- 10 a.m.** **Keynote Speaker – Tawana Petty**
- 11 a.m.** **Panel Sessions**
- 12 p.m.** **Keynote Speaker – Dr. Iván Char López**
- 1 p.m.** **LAS 1420 Scholars Research Posters**
- 1:45 p.m.** **Awards Ceremony**
- 2 p.m.** **Conference Concludes**



Welcome



Dr. Víctor Figueroa
Professor of Spanish
Acting Director, Center for Latino/a
and Latin American Studies



University Welcome



Dr. Claudio Verani
Professor of Chemistry
Associate Dean for Research and Space
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



Keynote Speaker



Tawana Petty
***Non-Resident Fellow, Digital Civil
Society Lab, Stanford University***
Social Justice Organizer and Poet



Panel Breakout Sessions

Panel #1

**Technologies, Policing and
Borders**

Panel #2

**Digitized Latina/o/x
Identities**

Panel #3

**Inspiring The Next Wave
of Latinx in Tech**



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Keynote Speaker



Dr. Iván Char López
***Assistant Professor in Digital
Studies, Department of American
Studies***
University of Texas at Austin



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LAS 1420 Instructional Team



Alicia Díaz
Instructor



Ida Martinez
Research Librarian



Lucy Arias
**Instructional
Assistant**



Mayra Torres
**Instructional
Assistant**





Embedded Online:
Collaborating to
Enhance Student
Research Success in
Latinx Studies

Ida Martinez, MLIS
Wayne State University
Detroit, MI

LAS 1420 Instructional Team



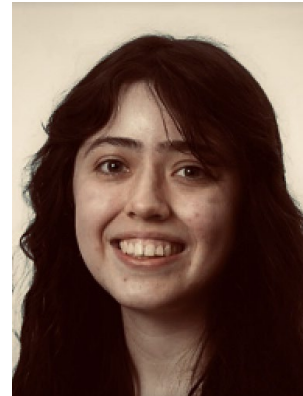
Alicia Díaz
Instructor



Ida Martinez
Research Librarian



Lucy Arias
**Instructional
Assistant**



Mayra Torres
**Instructional
Assistant**



Poster Session

Breakout #1

**Surveillance, Enforcement
and Detention**

Breakout #2

**Education and Access to
Technology**

Breakout #3

**Health and
Healthcare**

Breakout #4

**Social and Political
Activism**

Breakout #5

Film and Media



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Research Poster Judges

**Theresa Ramirez-
Zipser**

(WSU/LAS Alumna)

Djennin Casab

**Wayne State
University**

Gabriela Garfield

**Ellucian Company
(WSU/LAS Alumna)**

Dr. Dolly Tittle

**Macomb Community
College
(WSU Alumna)**

**Dr. Paula Oliva-
Fiori**

**University of Michigan
(WSU Alumna)**

Dr. Zach Morales

**Wayne State
University**



Top Poster – Sabrina Stahlberger

Juntos Tenemos Que Hacer Algo Technology at US-Mexico Border & Detention Camps

Sabrina Stahlberger
LAS 1420
H36035@wayne.edu



Introduction

- Frontline technology includes; sensors, night vision goggles, radars (ranging from 120 ft), electro-optical cameras, imagers, X-rays, and chemical detectors
- Technological innovations allowed for extraneous measurements and the rapid advancement allowing ICE to "step up" their game, resulting in violation rates increasing
- Latino's inhumane treatment, and the public's obliviousness towards what's really going on at the borders, and how technology is really being used is a serious challenge
- Technology used has been an eminent tool for American's "safety" protocol; however, worker's conscious of events occurring, refrain from seeing it as inhumane

Research Question

How does technology used at the US-Mexico border and Immigration detention camps impact human rights?

Methods

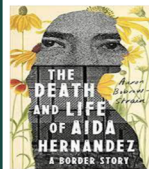
- Analyzed peer reviewed articles and academic books
- Conducted 2 Interviews with immigrants formally held in detention camps



Figures and Results



Various night vision goggles used on US-Mexico Borders



- The 2019 Best Selling memoir of Aida Hernandez: explains her life through a tough childhood; family separation; immigration detention; deportation; and entanglements with vast border security industrial complex and its technology.

"As a dad, being held at that camp [for 8 months] made me the most vulnerable I have ever been in my life. Knowing that I couldn't stop them from taking a part of me made me feel a way, I could never explain or allow for my kids to feel. They took apart of me I didn't know they were going to [do] here, my DNA."

Anonymous Interviewee #1: Male, father, early 50's, construction business owner, Country of Origin: Mexico

Conclusion

- The feelings of infringement of human rights is common among those who have been detained: "The only thing that got me through [those 6 months] was knowing that once this was all over, I could hold my kids and feel their warmth again" Anonymous Interviewee #2: Female, Mother, late 30's, Stay at home Parent, Country of Origin: Mexico
- Considering the extensive budget within Homeland Security for technology, I suggest we need to shift priorities to provide essentials such as health, housing, and education and stop social and cultural rights being taken from them
- Despite the excessive amount of surveillance on borders, the ongoing problem of lack of access to camps brings into question how can this process be more transparent to the whole country?

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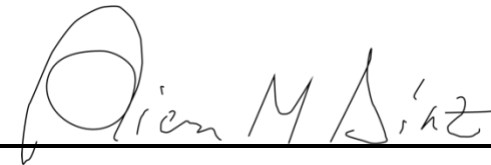
Sabrina Stahlberger

Top Poster

2021 Academia del Pueblo Research Conference



Víctor Figueroa, Ph.D.
Acting Director



Alicia Díaz, J.D.
LAS 1420 Instructor

Top Poster – Jennifer Ramos

No More Privacy: Digitalized Immigration

Jennifer Ramos
LAS 1420
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Introduction

- As of 2018, 10% of Department of Homeland Security's \$44 billion budget is allocated towards immigration policy enforcement technology.
- Technology is incorporated in areas ranging from border security to ordinary surveillance (such as data gathering).
- Issues include inherent lack of privacy, greater cooperation between authorities.
- Latinx community is especially vulnerable as they make up over 70% of the U.S. undocumented population as of 2018.

Research Question

How does technology embedded in immigration policy enforcement impact the Latinx community?

Methods



➢ Peer Reviewed Journals & Scholarly Sources



➢ Popular News Articles



➢ Interview With an Immigration Law Firm Case Manager

Results & Analysis

- Secure Communities program increases cooperation between ICE & state/local police through centralizing biometric data
- More Latinx distrust of local & state police as this amplified data distribution reduces immigrant data privacy



Source: Los Angeles Times

Cloud Service Providers with 20 or more FedRAMP authorizations



Source: fedramp.marketplace.gov

Source: Mijente

- FedRamp authorizations: Number of federal authorizations (in 2018) to maintain government data (Amazon = 204)
- Silicon Valley companies collect, manage, and store private & public data used to build immigrant profiles
- Profiles are used to surveil, track, and eventually deport
- Social media presents online privacy & disclosure risks that may warrant further government investigation
- Visible lack of Latinx awareness on whether they do have federal privacy rights and how E-Verify can possibly infringe on these



Source: TruePublica



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Results & Analysis

"They really don't think about [potential privacy violations], [immigrants] know it's part of the process and would rather not question it."

- Southeast MI Immigration Law Case Manager

Conclusion

- Greater awareness regarding privacy risks of this technology needs to be provided for Latinx immigrants.
- Secure Communities must be reevaluated to determine if it violates federalism & increases racial profiling.
- The government must increase transparency about its technology use within immigration processes. It must also increase clarity if existing privacy protections exist for immigrants. If not, laws on this topic must be considered and passed.

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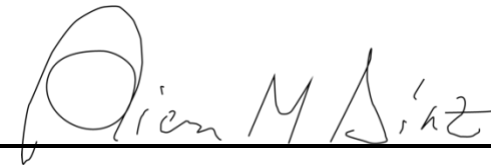
Top Poster

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Acting Director





Alicia Díaz, J.D.
LAS 1420 Instructor

Top Poster – Whitney Dean

Combatting Systemic Oppression against Latinx in Science

Whitney Dean - LAS 1420 - ft9364@wayne.edu



Introduction

- Physics and astronomy are the least diverse disciplines within STEM programs

Number of Departments that have ...	Highest Degree Awarded			
	PhD	Master's	Bachelor's	Total
both African-American and Hispanic faculty	16	3	8	27
African-American faculty (and gg Hispanic faculty)	18	10	45	73
Hispanic faculty (and gg African-American faculty)	76	22	53	151
Neither African-American nor Hispanic faculty	82	26	387	495
Total	192	61	493	746

This data originally dating back to 2012 was used in a 2016 publication and hasn't shown any recent improvement since then.

Research Question

How can the academic community stimulate growth from the Latinx community within physics and astronomy?

Method of Research

- Review of popular publications from the physics and astronomy community
- Multiple interviews with Wayne State astronomy and physics faculty
- Review of peer reviewed and academic publications

Research

- "While most in academia are cognizant of the fact that diversity is desperately lacking, they often don't recognize the barriers to entry faced by a more diverse population...The burden then disproportionately falls on those facing problems to not only highlight them but also find solutions to said problems. If a person is spending a significant amount of their time on such issues, in particular because they are directly impacted by them, they are forced to take away time that they could have spent on academic pursuits." - Interviewed quote from Dr. Nausheen Shah, Assistant Physics Professor at Wayne State University and board member of the departmental diversity committee SUPER.
- "I wanted to become something that was outside of the paradigms of expectation of the people in power... when you don't find blacks in the sciences and you don't find women in the sciences, I know that these forces are real and I had to survive them in order to get where I am today." - Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson PhD, world renowned Afro-Latinx astrophysicist
- "If we don't make some very transformational changes in how we think about correcting this inequality, then we might as well just give up." - Dr. Gabriela Gonzalez PhD, director of LIGO technology, Professor at Louisiana State University, and chair of the new STEM Education Advisory Panel and advocate for women in science

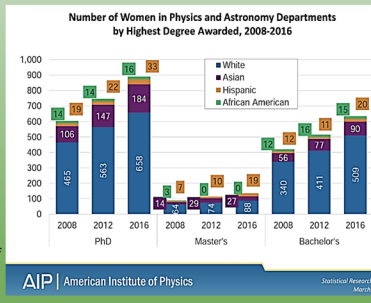


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Conclusions

- Academia must advocate for employment of Latinx scientists and professors
- Latinx contributions from historic indigenous technology and current LIGO practices should be included in the curriculum for astronomy college classes
- Federal financial aid and scholarships for minorities in STEM and education fields should increase the chances of stimulating diversity



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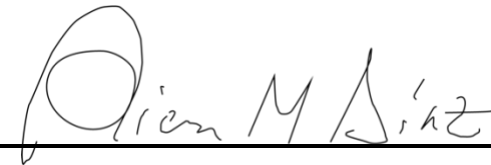
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Special Thank You to:

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