2026 NACCS PNW Foco Conference Program, Friday, November 6

***Metamórfosis*: The Past, Present, and Future of Chicana/o/x Studies in the Pacific Northwest**
Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington

Friday, November 6

4:30-5:15 PM **Registration, Lobby of Samuelson Hall**

5:15-5:30 PM **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement, Samuelson 104**
Dr. John Ribó, Co-Chair of NACCS PNW Foco
Dr. Ernesto Colín, Chair of NACCS

5:30-6:30 PM **Screening of *Roll Modelz* and Q&A with filmmakers Yahir Tzec-Carrasco and Oliver Rodriguez Dickson, Samuelson 104**

Yahir Tzec-Carrasco is a Mexican-American filmmaker and photographer from Portland, Oregon. His work focuses on documenting stories of the Latino community in the Pacific Northwest. Yahir's upcoming project is a documentary about the connection between lowrider culture and charreria.

Oliver Rodriguez Dickson is an award winning Mexican American filmmaker from Olympia, Washington. His work explores the intersection of culture, identity, and purpose. A recipient of the SIFF Grant for Courageous Documentary Filmmaking, Oliver is currently working on a new project that further explores lowrider culture in the Pacific Northwest.

Roll Modelz is an award-winning short documentary about how the often misunderstood culture of lowrider cars brings people together, especially during times of loss. The film tells the story of the WA State Lowriders Car Club based in Walla Walla, Washington, and how they honor the memory of Mya Kay Avila.

7:00-9:00 PM **Dinner and "Solos Ajolotes" Open Mic**
at The Ridge, 404 N Pine St., Ellensburg

Dinner is not provided by the conference.

If you'd like to read your poetry, please add your name to the list by contacting Professor Xavier Cavazos (Pedro.Cavazos@cwu.edu)

***Metamórfosis*: The Past, Present, and Future of Chicana/o/x Studies in the Pacific Northwest**
Central Washington University, Ellensburg, Washington

Saturday, November 7

8:00 AM-2:00 PM **Registration, Lobby of Samuelson Hall**

8:00-9:00 AM **Breakfast and Registration, Lobby of Samuelson Hall**

9:00-10:15 AM **Welcome: Dr. Ernesto Colín, Chair of NACCS, Samuelson 104**
Land Acknowledgment and Announcements
KEYNOTE: Jake Prendez, Samuelson 104
The Art of Rebellion: Social Justice and Chicana/o Visual Arts

Jake Prendez is a celebrated Chicano artist, public speaker, and co-director of the Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery in Seattle, Washington. His work is deeply rooted in themes of Chicana/o culture, activism, social justice, pop culture, and satire. His artistic style ranges from indigenous iconography and social realism to portraiture and colorful pop art. His work is an unapologetic celebration of identity, resistance, and empowerment, challenging the boundaries of mainstream art while amplifying the voices of those often overlooked.

Born in San Jacinto, California, and raised in Bothell, Washington, Jake pursued his passion for art and cultural studies, earning a Bachelor's degree in American Ethnic Studies from the University of Washington and a Master's degree in Chicana/o Studies from California State University, Northridge.

In 2019, Jake and his fiancé Judy Avitia-Gonzalez opened the Nepantla Cultural Arts Gallery, a multi-use, multicultural art space grounded in the Chicana/o arts traditions. The gallery has become a hub for Latinx and Chicanx arts in Seattle, hosting monthly exhibitions and community events.

10:30-11:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL: Discursive Power, Discursive Resistance

Chair	**Dr. Yesenia Navarrete Hunter, Heritage University**
Room	**Samuelson 101**
Presenter	**Title**
Drew Gamboa, Washington State University	“A Place to Grow”: Migrant Childcare, Washington Citizens for Migrant Affairs, and Northwest Rural Opportunities
Royce Spencer, Heritage University	Shifts and Changes in Native American Depictions in the Western Films of Republic Pictures, 1935-1958.
Dr. Yesenia Navarrete Hunter, Heritage University	Ofrendas y Altares: Peleando el Olvido
Christian Mireles-Mendoza, University of Washington - Seattle	Sketches of the Borderlands: History and Memory in Rolando Hinojosa's *Estampas del Valle*

PANEL: From *Metamórfosis* to *Revista Apple*: Two Chicana/o Studies Journals from the Pacific Northwest

Chair	Dr. Gilberto García, Central Washington University
Room	**Samuelson 102**
Presenter	**Title**
Dr. Lauro Flores, University of Washington - Seattle	The History of *Metamórfosis*: The First Chicana/o Studies Journal in the Pacific Northwest
Dr. Gilberto García, Central Washington University	*Revista Apple*: Second Journal of Chicana/o Studies in the Pacific Northwest

10:30-11:45 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONT.)

STUDENT TRACK: Applying to and Paying for College

Room	**Samuelson 104**
Arturo Santana, Central Washington University, Advisor and Recruiter, TRIO EOC Program	Post-Secondary Financial Aid Information
Andres Moreno Benito, Associate Director of Admissions, Central Washington University	Admissions Presentation

12:00-1:00 PM **LUNCH, Lobby of Samuelson Hall**
Conference Announcements, Samuelson 104
KEYNOTE: Dr. Alexandria Ramos, Samuelson 104
University of Washington-Seattle

Dr. Alexandria Ramos studies early 20th century Latinx literature and love working with archival texts. She is currently developing a book manuscript, tentatively titled "Pedagogies of Struggle: The Print Politics of Latinx and Asian American Writer-Activists, 1898-1968." This project explores the archives of antiracist, feminist, and anti-colonial writer-activists in the pre-Civil Rights era, and considers the relationship between literature, learning, and social justice. Her research on activist pedagogies has been supported by the American Association of University Women and the Asian/Pacific/American Institute at NYU. Dr. Ramos's research and teaching interests include women of color feminisms, borders and diasporas, and decolonial thought.

1:15-2:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL: Claiming Voice, Claiming Space

Chair	**Dr. Jaime Díaz, Washington State University**
Room	**Samuelson 101**
Presenter	**Title**
Sarah Daisy Amador, Washington State University	This 'Hood' is My Neighborhood: Community Responses to Racialized Space in Venice, California, 1960-1990
Lesly Portugal, Central Washington University	Educational Access, Community Strengths, and Institutional Responsiveness: Understanding GED and English Language Learning Participation Among Latino/Hispanic Immigrant and Migrant Communities in Kittitas County, Washington
Jereny Mendoza, University of Texas at Austin	Juntos Somos Más, Juntos Pa' La Comunidad: Explaining Latina/o Candidate Emergence in Washington State
Samuel Smith, Manzanita House	Administrative Violence: Immigration Enforcement through Policy, Regulation, and the Courts

PANEL: Healing the Shadow: Curanderismo, Ceremony, and Shame in Latinx Poetry

Chair	**Professor Xavier Cavazos, Central Washington University**
Room	**Samuelson 102**
Presenter	**Affiliation**
Dr. Gabriella Gutierrez	Seattle University
Paul E. Nelson	Cascadia Poetics Lab, Los Cerezos Literary Festival
Dr. Nadine Antoinette Maestas,	Seattle University and University of Washington Bothell

1:15-2:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONT.)

PLÁTICA: El Valle Tiene Memoria: Chicana Art, Sisterhood, and Community Knowledge as Living Archives in the Yakima Valley

Room	**Samuelson 103**
Vanessa “Bashi” Alviso & Madeline Alvizo Ramirez	

STUDENT TRACK

Room	**Samuelson 104**
Dr. Josué Estrada, Central Washington University	History of Latinas/os in the Pacific Northwest

2:45-4:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL: Speaking Truth to Power: La Llorona and the Many Voices of the Pacific Northwest

Chair	**Professor Xavier Cavazos, Central Washington University**
Room	**Samuelson 101**
Presenter	**Title**
Dr. Nadine Antoinette Maestas, Seattle University and University of Washington Bothell	Mapping, Re/Imagining, and Decolonizing La Llorona
Cirina Ruiz, Washington State University	In Search of Prosperidad: A Lens Through the Voice of Latina Women and Metamórfosis
Belinda Contreras-Barajas, Washington State University Tri-Cities	Unmasking the Legal Realities of Rural Mexican & Mexican American Women
Fernando Alaniz, Nuestras Raíces	Mental Health, Belonging, and First- Generation Mexican Men

2:45-4:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONT.)

PANEL: "The Tiny Romero Grew": Poesía, Metamórfosis and other Critical Resistances

Chair	**Maria Cuevas, ABD, Independent Scholar**
Room	**Samuelson 102**
Presenter	**Title**
Dra. Veronica Sandoval and Alicia Gonzalez, Portland Community College	Tejiendo Comunidad: Building Community at Portland Community College
Denise Hopkins, Washington State University	Under The Ground the Border Doesn't Matter: On the Potato, Colonial Violence, and Anzaldúan Liberation
Dr. L Heidenreich, Washington State University	Revisiting "A Chicanas/os Latinas/o Forging New Paths in the Northwest": Building Diversity on Post-Bakke Northwest Campuses

WORKSHOP: El Noroeste: A Musical Portrait of Washington's Latine Communities Past & Present

Room	**Samuelson 103**
Presenter	**Affiliation**
Antonio M. Gómez	Trío Guadalevín, Early Music Seattle
Abel Rocha	Trío Guadalevín

2:45-4:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONT.)

STUDENT TRACK: Internships, Networking, and Building A Career

Room	**Samuelson 104**
Presenter	**Affiliation**
Lizette Magana	Central Washington University, Career Services
Li Velasco	Nuestras Raíces
Cassey Henrickson	Central Washington University, Career Services
Yadira Orozco	Nuestras Raíces

4:15-5:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PANEL: Drink Cultura: From Textiles, Brown Space, and the Power of the Word

Chair	**Dr. L Heidenreich, Washington State University**
Room	**Samuelson 101**
Presenter	**Title**
Paul E. Nelson, Cascadia Poetics Lab, Los Cerezos Literary Festival	Neo-Barroco: Reimagining the Borders of the New American Poetry
Jose "Tony" Garcia, Highline College	Metamórfosis desde el Barrio: Chicano Park and the Past, Present, and Future of Chicana/o/x Community Resistance
Dr. Ivan González-Soto, Washington State University – Vancouver	Drawing Memory: Visualizing Chicanx Histories Through Oral History and Illustration
Astrid Vidalon, Central Washington University	Decentering Fashion: A Brief Story of Peruvian Textile Art

4:15-5:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS (CONT.)

PANEL: From Campus Involvement to Career Readiness: Building Skills, Confidence & Leadership

Room	**Samuelson 102**
Presenter	**Affiliation**
Michelle Dominguez	Central Washington University
Eunice Reyes Valdovinos	Central Washington University
Lesly Portugal	Central Washington University

STUDENT TRACK

Room	**Samuelson 104**
Ramón Razo, Substance Use Disorder Professional, Peer Support Specialist Trainer, Mentor Gang Intervention Specialist, and Masters of Social Work Student	The Power of Lived Experience: Turning Pain into Purpose