

Mexico Programs at UCLA

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UCLA and Mexico: Mexico-Related Resources, Programs, and Research is the title of a new publication by UCLA's Program on Mexico. The work, edited by **Paul Ganster** and funded by UC MEXUS, documents UCLA's long standing commitment to Mexico-related studies.

For nearly fifty years UCLA has demonstrated an active and expanding interest in Mexico and Mexico-related studies. By the 1930s faculty members in various departments at UCLA, notably **John Caughey** and Roland D. Hussey in History, Manuel Pedro González and **John Crow** in Spanish, Russell Fitzgibbon in Political Science, and George Ir/ IVcBride in Geography, had begun to incorporate a good deal of Mexican material in their courses. **Ralph Beals** joined the UCLA faculty in 1936 and offered the first courses devoted entirely to Mexico. "Civilizations of Mexico" and, later, "Indians of Modern Mexico."

Beginning in the 1950s and 1960s, the study of Mexico at UCLA benefitted from the establishment of an interdisciplinary Latin American Studies Program and the availability of sizeable federal and private grants for area studies. In 1959 the Latin American Center was established as an Organized Research Unit (ORU), and has since become one of the strongest Latin American programs in the United States. UCLA is now a major regional and national resource center on Latin America because of its academic programs (B.A. and M.A. interdisciplinary degrees as well as articulated degrees with a number of professional schools), research, publications, resource development, and programs for the local community and broader general public. Mexico is strongly emphasized in all of these programs. **Ludwig Lauerhass, Jr.**, Latin American Bibliographer in the University Research Library and Lecturer in the History Department is Executive Director of the Center.

By 1969, the Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC) was established to contribute to Mexican studies through a broad range of activities in the social sciences humanities, and the arts. Its primary mission is interdisciplinary academic research related to the Mexican experience in the United States. CSRC programs include research, publications, and resource development. There is also an academic program that includes a postdoctoral and graduate fellowship program as well as an undergraduate major and graduate curriculum. Professor of History **Juan Gómez-Quñones** is Director of CSRC

By 1981 UCLA's interest in Mexico was sufficiently broad and complex that it required the creation of the UCLA Program on Mexico to coordinate and encourage research, faculty and student exchanges, and to promote other significant activities related to Mexico. Chaired by historian **Norris C. Hundley**, the Program includes

representatives from the faculty, the Chancellor's Office, the Latin American Center, and CSRC.

Concurrently with the establishment of the UCLA Program on Mexico, UCIA joined with the other UC campuses to create the University of California Consortium on Mexico and the United States. In the summer of 1981 the UC MEXUS Executive Committee selected UCLA as the site for its administrative offices and named **James W. Wilkie** Universitywide Coordinator. The headquarters are funded by UC MEXUS, with the assistance of UCLA's Council on International and Comparative Studies, Latin American Center, CSRC, and Chancellor's Office. In addition to undertaking general administrative duties the Universitywide Coordinator's office publishes the *UC MEXUS NEWS*.

Mexico-related research at UCLA is undertaken across the campus through individual and collaborative projects in the various programs and departments. The United States-Mexico Borderlands Research Program constitutes one of the most significant Mexico-oriented research projects ever undertaken on a university campus. A joint venture of the UCLA Latin American Center and the CSRC, the wide-ranging project, launched early in 1981 following an international review and planning conference, is expected to extend through the present decade. The research involves the participation of Mexican and U.S. social scientists, physical and life scientists, humanists, and professionals in nearly all disciplines. The principal effort of the project is the collection and analysis of mappable data for this important region that will be published in a multivolume, *bilingual United States-Mexico Borderlands Atlas*.

Since the founding of the UCLA Latin American Center, a significant part of its research has dealt with Mexico. For example, the Center's nonformal education project that was launched in 1970 and its ongoing lore and statistical projects have had strong Mexican components.

In addition to the borderlands atlas efforts, the Center has two other border projects underway. Data are now being gathered and analyzed under the direction of **Peter Reich**, which along with a number of essays relating to aspects of binational statistics, will be published as the *Statistical Abstract of the United States-Mexico Borderlands*. This volume is part of the supplement series to the Center's Statistical Abstract of Latin America Series.

Another team of UCLA Latin American Center researchers, in cooperation with the University Library staff and off-campus participants, is building a bibliographic database on the border, BorderLine, as this project is entitled, is housed in the UCLA University Research Library and is an automated bibliographic search service for materials published or produced since 1960 that deal with the United States-Mexico borderlands region. BorderLine is now being expanded to form an international consortium.

In addition to the collaborative effort on the borderlands, the CSRC is involved in wide ranging research projects related to Mexican studies. Several ongoing activities stem from a grant by the Fund for the improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) and include research topics on the history of U.S.-Mexican relations; Mexican culture and media; economics and energy; immigration and the border area; and Mexico's relations with the Mexican-American community. During 1980-1981, the CSRC undertook a major project on the two-hundred-year history of the Los Angeles Mexican community, and this research will soon be published. Another important focus of CSRC has been research on Mexican and Mexican-American women

Other UCLA academic units that have undertaken significant Mexico-related research projects include the Graduate School of Management, the Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, the School of Public Health, and the Spanish Speaking Mental Health Research Center.

Over the years much of the research on Mexico at UCLA has been undertaken by individual faculty and graduate students, not only in the humanities and social sciences, but in the professional schools and physical and life sciences. Currently some 75 UCLA faculty and staff from 23 departments and research units are involved in research on some aspect of Mexico. Much of this research is by ladder-rank faculty and therefore constitutes a continuing commitment on the part of the University. For example, historians **James Lockhart**, James W. Wilkie, John Caughey (emeritus), Norris C. Hundley, Juan Gómez-Quiñones, **Mary Yeager**, **Alexander Saxton**, and **John Laslett** are all involved in research related to Mexico and the Mexicans in the United States. In biology and ecology, **Donald G. Buth**, **Martin L. Cody**, **Henry A. Hespenheide**, **Park S. Nobel**, **Laurie Vitt**, **Hartmut Walter**, **Charles Bennett**, **Jonathan Sauer**, **Philip W. Rundel**, **Mildred E. Mathias**, and **W. E. Westman** have all researched aspects of Mexico.

As listed in the volume *UCLA and Mexico*, the research of UCLA graduate students on Mexico has been significant.

More than two hundred-fifty Master's theses and Ph.D. dissertations have been completed on Mexican topics. The following departments produced most of these: Education (52); Anthropology (42); History (34); Geography (19); Hispanic Language and Literature (13); Latin American Studies (13); Sociology (12); and Political Science (11)

With an outstanding core of Mexicanist faculty concentrated in the humanities and social sciences, as well as distinguished faculty in the professional schools and physical and life science departments who are knowledgeable about many aspects of Mexico, few institutions in the United States approach UCLA in the richness and variety of Mexico-related coursework for both graduate and under graduate programs. Over forty-five courses are devoted primarily to Mexico while an additional one hundred twenty-five or so courses have a substantial Mexico content. More than twenty departments offer these courses.

In keeping with the tradition at UCLA of public service to the local community and the promotion of understanding on the international level, the University has, over the decades, sponsored many public outreach programs involving Mexico and the Chicano community in the United States. At the same time, UCLA's efforts involve a great range of cultural activity in the visual arts, music, and literature; films; exhibits; lectures; concerts; plays; dances; and workshops both on and off the Westwood campus.

UCLA takes pride not only in the initiation of important research on Mexico and the Chicano community, but also in making this research and that of other specialists available through several different publications programs. While the Latin American Center is concerned with publications on Latin America generally, many of its imprints are of central importance to the study of Mexico. The yearly *Statistical Abstract of Latin America* contains not only statistical material on Mexico, but over the years it has published some half-dozen analytical articles dealing with Mexico. The *Journal of Latin American Lore* contains 20 articles on Mexico, while the *Center's Reference Series* and *Library Guides* are important research tools. The *Hispanic American Periodicals Index* (HAPI) is an annual index of articles appearing in nearly fifty major journals treating Latin America, Mexico, and the Hispanic population in the United States. Ten of the Center's monograph series concern specifically Mexican topics.

UCLA's CSBC has a well-established publications program of scholarly monographs, reprints, and a journal *Aztlán: The International Journal of Chicano Studies Research*. Since its founding in 1970, *Aztlán* has published 22 issues, a number of which have been devoted to special topics such as "Chicano History" and "Education and the Chicano." The CSRC catalogue includes more than forty-nine titles in its different series.

Other significant Mexico publications at UCLA are *The Chicano Law Review*, *The Pacific Historical Review* as well as the imprints of the Museum of Cultural History.

The University of California Press has offices at UCLA (as well as Berkeley) It actively seeks to expand its strong list of titles on Mexico

The UCLA library collections of materials related to Mexico, U.S.-Mexican relations, the border, and Chicano studies are among the strongest and most heavily used in the country. They cover the full spectrum of the social sciences and humanities and range from the fine arts to the health sciences. In all, over 50,000 volumes are held in addition to significant collections of maps, manuscripts, government documents, microfilms, and ephemera.

The UCLA University Research Library houses the core holdings for most fields. The library's Public Affairs Service acquires much current economic, statistical, and political material from Mexican government agencies as well as Mexico-related documents from U.S. federal and state agencies, from other foreign governments,

and from international and regional organizations. The Department of Special Collections has rich holdings of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials on Mexico and the Southwest. Highlights include the Byron McAfee collection of Nahuatl manuscripts and the Carey Williams papers.

Within the UCLA University Library System other important holdings are found in the Art, Bio-Medical, Education- Psychology, Geology, Management, N/ap, and Music Libraries. The contents of these libraries are integrated into the main University Research Library catalog. The UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Library augments these collections with extensive resources on the Chicano population in the United States as well as on the Mexican heritage of these peoples. This collection is rapidly becoming one of the chief repositories in the country of printed and audiovisual materials documenting all aspects of the Chicano experience.

Since its inception in 1962 UCLA's Museum of Cultural History has had a strong interest in Mexico and now has a heavily-used collection of more than 6,000 objects from that country. The Mexican section has strengths in both pre- Columbian and contemporary folk art areas.

The work *UCLA and Mexico* details these many activities. The volume may be ordered from: UCLA Program on Mexico, 11343 Bunche Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024