

USC Dornsife

Marine and Environmental Biology



Diego Rivera Mural Project

National Hispanic Heritage Month Week 1

Identity

As part of our larger goal of drawing attention to the personal experiences of Latina/o/x American scientists this month, we would like to begin by presenting resources and individuals' stories that address Latina/o/x American **identity**. This theme is further explored in the first of two *cuentos/contos* presented by Daniel Olivares-Zambrano. This week Daniel interviews Ph.D. students Daisy Flores and Maya Yanez (see links below).



How distinct ethnic groups became 'Hispanics'

Watch Dr. G. Cristina Mora, Associate Professor of Sociology at UC Berkeley, present on her book, *Making Hispanics*. In her talk she explores "the development of what we think of as the Hispanic or Latino category in the United States" and the controversy that accompanies the category.

Central American Identity

(2nd largest population of Latino/a/x in Los Angeles)

Explore the experiences of ten college-educated Central-American Americans! From the USC archives, by Norma Stoltz Chinchilla and Nora Hamilton.

Follow [@CSIL_USC](#) on Twitter.

What is Afro-Latinidad?

Listen to an episode of NPR's Latino USA podcast in which the experiences of Latinos of African descent are explored.

Are Brazilian Americans Latinos?

Listen to another episode of Latino USA, in which the presenters explore the identity of Brazilian Americans, long excluded from the Spanish-language centered category of hispanic.

Daisy Flores

Ph.D. Student, University of Texas at Austin

Daisy Flores, a San Diego native and marine biologist, tells us how her Latinx identity has influenced the way she approaches education in the US and abroad. Additionally, Daisy emphasizes how a strong support system encourages her to persevere in academia, even during tough times. Lastly, she provides a few suggestions to increase inclusivity in universities and departments.

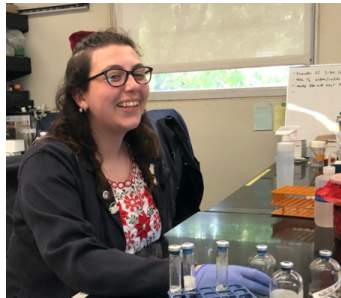


[Read more.](#)

Maya Yanez

Ph.D. Student, University of Southern California

Geobiologist and Los Angeles native, Maya Yanez, recounts navigating academia as a first-generation scholar, including the terrifying moments when she found out her loans were denied and how the problem was resolved! She explains how acknowledging and embracing her identity as a Latina has shaped her academic career. Maya candidly addresses her plans for the future, the reasons why she is not considering a career in academia and suggestions on welcoming and retaining Latinx students. [Read more.](#)



Latinx Scientist Profile

Dr. Roberto Iglesias-Prieto is a Professor of Biology at Penn State University whose research focuses on the photobiology of coral, particularly with respect to climate change impacts. Prior to joining the faculty at Penn State he was a research professor at the Institute of Marine Sciences and Limnology of the National Autonomous University of Mexico in Puerto Morelos where he chaired the Mesoamerican Center of

Excellence of the GEF/World Bank Coral Reef Targeted Research program. Born in Mexico City, he received his Bachelor and Master degrees at UNAM, and his Ph.D. at the University of California, Santa Barbara. After a year as a postdoctoral fellow at UCSB, Dr. Iglesias-Prieto moved in 1994 to the northern Mexican state of Baja California to take a position as a senior scientist at the Center for Scientific Research and Higher Studies of Ensenada. His work has been focused on the ecological and evolutionary consequences of symbiont specificity in corals, the effects of thermal and light stress on the organization of the photosynthetic apparatus of symbiotic dinoflagellates, and the role of coral skeletons as modulators of the intracellular light environment. Dr. Iglesias-Prieto was the first to show that elevated temperature impairs photosynthesis of the symbiotic dinoflagellates and his work has generated new insights into how light environments structure coral and coral-associated microbial communities.

To learn more about Dr. Iglesias-Prieto and what motivated his career in science visit https://www.pbs.org/strangedays/educators/qa_prieto.html



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