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Welcome from the Director

The El Paso massacre in August left many Latinx members of UConn and our surrounding communities in shock and fear, hesitant even to speak our mother tongues in public. It is easy here to call out dehumanizing anti-Latinx rhetoric as an affront to morality and a danger to democracy. But it does not feel easy for everyone at this time, even in our relatively safe campus environment, to speak their pain and anxiety publicly.

Part of what we promote at El Instituto is to be willing to listen, but also to be patient when others don’t want to talk, and not to mistake reticence for indifference or complacency. At times, silence is the truest index of hurt. Yet when and where it feels safe, let’s talk about how words can harm and how hate-filled speech may eventuate deadly violence.

The people now being held behind the U.S.-Mexico border wall simply want what Honduran photojournalist Tomás Ayuso calls the “right to grow old.” I invite you to look at Ayuso’s photographs and ponder the kind of perspective switch that Latinx media and scholarship provides. El Instituto will continue to
make this scholarship more accessible through the events and research we sponsor during the 2019-20 academic year.

Samuel Martínez
Director of El Instituto and Professor of Anthropology

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Recent News

**Latinx Leadership Initiative Launched**

The initiative, which supports emerging student leaders involved with PRLAAC and the La Comunidad Intelectual first-year learning community, was announced at the Hispanic Heritage Month alumni reception in September.

[Continue Reading]

**Daisy Reyes Embarks on Follow-up Research**

Professor Reyes conducted follow-up fieldwork with students from her recent book, *Learning to be Latino*, to find out about their various transitions into adulthood and how alumni from different institutions fared after graduation.

[Continue Reading]

**Graduate Students Summer Update**
El Instituto's second-year graduate students describe what they were up to over the summer and their plans for the future.

[Continue Reading]

UConn Ph.D. Discusses “Guest Worker” Programs

Arthur (Leigh) Binford, a UConn anthropology Ph.D. student and former UConn Hartford professor, made the first “tertulia” luncheon seminar presentation of the 2019-20 academic year.

[Continue Reading]

The Vision for La Comunidad Intelectual

The first-year learning community plans to expand this year by working on significant projects to capture the attention of the University and future Latinx Huskies.

[Continue Reading]

More Institute News

Featured Events
Book Launch: *Tethered Fates Companies, Communities, and Rights at Stake*
Thursday, October 10
4:00-5:30 p.m.
Dodd Center Lounge
Storrs Campus

The Persistence of Myth: Brazil's Undead Racial Democracy
Monday, October 14
12:20-1:50 p.m.
Homer Babbidge Library
Storrs Campus