Luis Martín-Cabrera, Literature, University of California, San Diego

Candidate Biography

Education: B.A., University of Salamanca, (French and Spanish) 1996; MA Yale University (Latin American Studies) 2003; Ph.D (Romance Languages and Literatures) University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2005)


Other Academic Affiliations at UCSD: Affiliated with CILAS (Center for Latin American and Iberian Studies); Ethnic Studies, Critical Gender Studies.

Honors and Scholarships: Recipient of John T. Roberts Merit Fellowship, Yale University, 1999-2000; Recipient of a Hellmans Fellowship (2009 and 2010).

Publications: Radical Justice: Spain and the Southern Cone beyond Market and State (Bucknell UP: 2011); Several research articles in topics that range from Migration and culture, Psychoanalysis and Marxism and Human rights in Journals such as the Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies, Hispanic Review or the Arizona Journal of Hispanic Studies.

Other Research Projects: Director of The Spanish Civil War Memory Project, a UCSD initiative to collect testimonies of survivors of the war and the dictatorship. http://libraries.ucsd.edu/speccoll/scwmemory/

University Governance and service: Member of the Honors Committee, Department of Literature, UCSD, 2005-2006.; Member of the Public Events Committee, Department of Literature, UCSD, 2006-2007; Spanish undergraduate adviser, Fall, Winter and Spring 2006-2011, UCSD, Literature ; Member of the steering committee of the UC Consortium for Language Learning and Teaching, 2007-2008.; Member of the Executive Committee of the Literature Department (2009-2010). MLA Delegate Assembly, Politics and the Profession (2012-2013)

AAUP: Vice-President of the San Diego Faculty Association, affiliated with the AAUP and CUCFA (Council of the University of California Faculty Associations) (2011-present)

Union Experience: Graduate Students Organization (GESO) at Yale; Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) at the University of Michigan

Other Memberships: MLA (Modern Languages Association); LASA (Latin American Studies Association)

Candidate Statement

More than 15 years working in higher education in the United States has taught me that the only way to implement meaningful transformations for the benefit of faculty, students, and workers is collective action and grassroots self-organization. I was first exposed to the workings and pitfalls of a corporate university when I was accepted as a graduate student at Yale University in the 1990’s. At Yale I became an organizer for the Graduate Student Union (GESO) during a moment of intense conflict between the administration and the graduate students. I learned through this experience that US universities were increasingly relying on part-time labor without providing benefits and taking away federal and state funds from their core instructional mission. In part due to my union activity, I had to move to the University of Michigan to finish my doctorate degree. In Ann Arbor, I worked as an organizer for the Graduate Student Union (GEO) and the lectures Union (LEO). I participated in bargaining sessions and in two strikes. Out of these
experiences, I understood that the corporatization trend in higher education was by no means limited to Yale, but also that in order to stop it we, as faculty, need to form strong alliances with students and workers.

As a faculty member in the UC system I have not ceased fighting against the rapid deterioration of public education in California. Since my arrival to the San Diego campus, I have been fighting together with other faculty to promote access and diversity in higher education. Out of a long struggle against racism and the lack of diversity on our campus, we decided to invigorate our long-term dormant chapter of the AAUP. I am currently the Vice President of this chapter and I am absolutely convinced that the AAUP is the best organization to lead the way towards reinvesting in affordable (or free) education for everybody in this country regardless of class, race, gender, sexuality, (dis)ability, national origin or any other barrier. The times are changing; the AAUP has to pave the way for a better future.