Promoting Philosophy for Children at the Mexico-U.S. Border

APA Diversity and Inclusiveness Grant Application

Contact Name: Dr. Amy Reed-Sandoval

Email Address: areedsandoval@utep.edu

APA member? Yes

Funding Information

Fiscal Agent Contact Name: José Ramirez

Mailing Address: Administration Building Room 200
500 West University Avenue
El Paso TX 79968-0587

Email Address: jaramirez@utep.edu

Phone Number: 915 747 0587

Funding Amount Requested: $8,000

Project Information

Project Title: Promoting Philosophy for Children at the Mexico-U.S. Border

Abstract: This project is designed to promote—both locally and in academic philosophy—the bilingual University of Texas at El Paso Philosophy for Children program in the border cities of El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Our goal is to celebrate and represent, in a publicly accessible way, the unique philosophical perspectives of children and families of this region. To these ends, we will create a bilingual, interactive Philosophy for Children exhibit at the Museo Urbano: a local museum in El Paso that showcases the history of the Mexico-U.S. borderlands. This interactive exhibit will be expertly designed to inspire philosophical dialogue on the part of local children and families. We will also create an educational, bilingual documentary about the exhibit itself as well as the UTEP Philosophy for Children program. The documentary will be made widely accessible at the Mexico-U.S. border and in academic philosophy.

Steering Committee:

1. Dr. Amy Reed-Sandoval, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Texas at El Paso (APA member)
2. Dr. Yolanda Chávez Leyva, Associate Professor and Chair of Department of History, University of Texas at El Paso, and Co-Director of the Museo Urbano, El Paso (non-APA member)
3. Lorena Andrea, Director of Mujer Obrera El Paso (non-APA member)
4. Daniela Martagón, Artist and Independent Scholar (non-APA member)
**Project Description**

The proposed project is designed to promote—at the Mexico-U.S. border and in the context of academic philosophy—the growing, bilingual Philosophy for Children program that was recently established in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Founded in September 2014, this community outreach program is now providing free Philosophy for Children classes for four community partners in El Paso: (1) Rayito de Sol Daycare and Learning Center, which is an enterprise of the local community organization La Mujer Obrera; (2) Aliviane, Inc., a rehabilitation center for mothers struggling with drug addiction (our classes serve local children whose mothers are receiving treatment at Aliviane); (3) a fourth-grade Special Education class at Morehead Middle School; and (4) the YWCA of El Paso. Next year, we will also begin facilitating Philosophy for Children classes at two local high schools. We will also initiate a collaborative Philosophy for Children project with the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez (UACJ).

Through the proposed project we will now promote our program to: (a) potential community partners in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez who may wish to host future Philosophy for Children classes; (b) parents whose children are already enrolled in the program, and who may be curious about what Philosophy for Children entails; (c) UTEP students who may be interested in becoming Philosophy for Children teachers; (d) the profession of academic philosophy, as we strive to present another example of publicly engaged philosophy; and (e) funding organizations to which we intend to apply for future grants.

There are two main components of this promotional project.

(1) We will create an interactive, bilingual Philosophy for Children exhibit at the Museo Urbano in El Paso. (The Museo Urbano, which is a collaborative project of the UTEP Department of History and the community organization La Mujer Obrera, has agreed to host this exhibit and assist in its creation.) To develop this interactive exhibit we will bring to El Paso Mexican Philosophy for Children artist Daniela Martagón. Ms. Martagón creates acclaimed philosophical museum exhibits for children in Madrid, Spain. In the Museo Urbano exhibit, each room of the museum will contain fascinating interactive features that will inspire philosophical questioning and dialogue on the part of local children and families. The exhibit will be open to all children and families who currently participate in our program, UTEP students who teach for our program, as well as potential new community partners. At the exhibit opening, for which light refreshments will be provided, we will give a presentation to the community about the nature and importance of Philosophy for Children.

(2) We will create a documentary about the exhibit and the Philosophy for Children program. This 20-minute film will serve at least four promotional purposes. First, we will include it in our applications for future grant funding. Second, we will use it to present our program to potential community partners in the borderlands. Third, it will be made available to the Museo Urbano as a (future) part of the Philosophy for Children exhibit itself. Fourth, it will document many of the unique philosophical perspectives of borderlands children and youth. In making it publicly available, we hope that the video will address (and, to an extent, ameliorate) the under-representation of philosophical work from and about the Mexico-U.S. border.

This promotional project will promote diversity and inclusiveness in philosophy in two key ways. First, it will enable us to make philosophical study available to more children who are members of under-represented groups in philosophy. Our program serves children of a number of social groups who are underrepresented in academic philosophy in the US, including: non-native English speakers, US citizens and residents who only speak Spanish, working-class and economically disadvantaged people, Latina/os, Mexican citizens who
regularly cross the border into the United States, disabled people, and undocumented people. The program is also becoming increasingly popular amongst students of the University of Texas at El Paso who are drawn to the opportunity to engage in philosophical dialogue with children and youth of their community. UTEP is a Hispanic Serving Institution and the majority of its students are the first in their families to go to college. El Paso, the city where most UTEP students come from, is one of the poorest larger cities in the United States.

There is a second key way in which this project will promote diversity and inclusiveness in philosophy. In documenting philosophical perspectives and activity at the Mexico-U.S. border, we believe that our video will provide a new resource to philosophers who are interested in Latin American, Latina/o and children’s philosophy.

**Project Goals and Objectives**

The Museo Urbano exhibit will provide a visual, interactive experience of Philosophy for Children. This is important given that Philosophy for Children (and philosophy more broadly) is sometimes regarded by parents, potential community partners and funding organizations as overtly abstract and unintelligible. In giving the local community a visually striking, inviting opportunity to engage in philosophical dialogue, the exhibit will do much to enable us to explain and promote our program. The video will also provide further evidence and documentation of the nature and importance of Philosophy for Children at the Mexico-U.S. border. It will serve as a promotional tool at the border and in the context of grant applications. The video will be featured on our website with the goal of inspiring future research and scholarship on philosophy and Philosophy for Children at the Mexico-U.S. border.

**Project plan and timeline**

**January 2016**
1. First meeting of the full Steering Committee (Daniela Martagón connects via Skype) to plan for exhibit.
2. Film-maker is given notes from the steering committee meeting to begin planning documentary.
3. Participation in the museum exhibit will be incorporated into the requirements for the Philosophy for Children class that will be taught in spring 2016 at UTEP. The nature and goals of this exhibit will be shared with UTEP students at this time.

**February 2016**
1. Daniela Martagón shares detailed proposal for exhibit with full steering committee and film-maker.
2. UTEP students teaching Philosophy for Children classes in the community inform their students and community partners of the upcoming exhibit.

**March 2016**
1. Plans for exhibit finalized.
3. Promotion of the exhibit begins at UTEP, in El Paso, and in Ciudad Juárez.

**April 2016**
1. Daniela Martagón comes to El Paso to install the exhibit. She also leads a series of "philosophy through art" sessions in the community.
2. Film-maker begins filming Philosophy for Children classes.
3. The exhibit is opened later in the month, and the opening is filmed.
4. UTEP students use the exhibit as an opportunity to research children’s philosophy in the Mexico-U.S. borderlands.

**May 2016**
1. Film is edited and translated to include subtitles in English and Spanish.
2. Completed film is presented on program website and distributed to community partners.
3. The film is screened at the UACJ in Ciudad Juárez.

**Outreach Plan**

We will promote the project in the following ways:

- Personalized invitations will be sent to community partners, families who participate in the program, potential community partners and interested UTEP faculty members
- Press release about the exhibit will be distributed locally to news outlets such as the *El Paso Times*
- Event will be advertised in UTEP university newsletter
- The video itself will be made widely available to local media, community partners, families, and UTEP students and faculty. It will be contextualized and presented on our program website

**Accessibility Plan**

The documentary will be subtitled throughout in Spanish and English and thus accessible to deaf/hard of hearing individuals. The steering committee will ensure that the exhibit itself is accessible for disabled persons. In particular, prior to developing the exhibit, we will meet with the teacher of Special Education fourth-grade class that currently hosts Philosophy for Children classes from our program to ensure that our exhibit meets the diverse needs of students of that class, most of whom will be attending the opening of the exhibit.

**Evaluation Plan**

In order to evaluate the quality of our exhibit we will distribute qualitative and quantitative feedback forms at the end of the exhibit, and also following the screenings of the documentary. These forms will be distributed in English and Spanish to the children, parents, community partners, UTEP students, and UTEP faculty members who visit the exhibit. Age-appropriate forms will be created for children. The forms will be designed to measure the extent to which the exhibit made clear (at least, form the perspective of those who attended) what philosophy and philosophical dialogue are. They will also measure the extent to which the exhibit increased the likelihood that attendees will get involved in, or will continue to participate in, the Philosophy for Children program.

**Website Plan**

Where will the website be hosted? On the website of the UTEP Department of Philosophy


Do you want the APA to link to the project website? Yes

If yes, in what pages or sections of the APA website would you like it to appear? “Resources for Diversity and Inclusiveness”

**Funding Plan**

Thus far, this program has received two different sources of funding from UTEP. First, UTEP has provided a part-time student research assistant to work for the program. The student research assistant will assist with the implementation of the exhibit. Second, the UTEP University Research Institute recently awarded the
program a small grant of nearly $3,000 to support student research on children’s philosophy at the border, and also for the purpose of building a Philosophy for Children lending library. These resources will also be called upon for the proposed exhibit. In addition, an undergraduate philosophy major at UTEP recently received a six-month fellowship to work for the program from The Mission Continues, a program designed to help US veterans gain skills to enable them to do future work in the non-profit sector. This fellow will be in charge of promoting the exhibit and film to the public. We believe that receiving a Diversity and Inclusiveness Grant from the APA will position us to be competitive for larger grants from organizations such as the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Ford Foundation. Applying for these grants is our intended next step in the development of this program.

### Project Budget

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Short CVs of Steering Committee

AMY REED-SANDOVAL
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, The University of Texas at El Paso

Education
2014 PhD, Philosophy, University of Washington
2012 MA, Philosophy, University of Washington
2007 MSc, Philosophy and Public Policy, The London School of Economics and Political Science
2004 BA, Philosophy, Temple University, (minor in Spanish)
2003 Studies in Spanish literature and philosophy, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

Areas of Specialization
Latin American and Latina/o Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy, Immigration, Global Indigenous Studies, Philosophy for Children

Areas of Competence
Feminist Philosophy, Bioethics, Philosophy of Race

Publications


Review Essays

Select Awards, Grants and Honors

2015 University Research Institute (URI) Grant, The University of Texas at El Paso, to support development of “Philosophy for Children in the Borderlands” outreach program ($3,000)

2014-2015 Society of Scholars Dissertation Fellowship, Simpson Center for the Humanities, The University of Washington (declined)

Grant from Diversity Research Institute, University of Washington, to support bringing Latin American Philosophy experts to UW ($1,000)

2013 Jennifer Caldwell Human Rights Scholarship, Center for Human Rights, University of Washington
-Awarded for Philosophy for Children outreach to support human rights education in Oaxaca, Mexico ($2,200 grant)

2012-13 Rader Summer Stipends for Innovative Philosophical Projects, Department of Philosophy, University of Washington.
-Awarded in 2012 for Philosophy for Children outreach in Oaxaca, Mexico ($2,000 grant)
-Awarded in 2013 to make a documentary about the Oaxaca Philosophy for Children Initiative ($2,000 grant)
-Access documentary at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3HEjPFf_20

2011-13 Grants from the University of Washington Center for Philosophy for Children to support Philosophy for Children outreach in Oaxaca, Mexico

2012 Distinguished Teacher Award, Department of Philosophy, University of Washington

2011 Squire Family Foundation/Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Award for Best Formal Paper in Pre-College Ethics (Second Place)

Pre-College Philosophy Teaching

- Philosophy for Children Instructor at various community centers in El Paso, TX (2014-present)
- Philosophy for Children Instructor through the Oaxaca Philosophy for Children Initiative, a Philosophy for Children summer outreach program for K-12 youth in Oaxaca, Mexico (2010-present)
- Philosophy for Children instructor at Whittier Elementary School, Seattle, through the UW Center for Philosophy for Children (2012-2014)
- Philosophy for Children instructor at John Muir Elementary School, Seattle, through the UW Center for Philosophy for Children (2011-2012)
YOLANDA CHÁVEZ LEYVA

Associate Professor
Department of History
University of Texas at El Paso
915-747-7067/ yleyva@utep.edu

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, Ph.D. in U.S. History, 1999
University of Texas at El Paso, MA in Borderlands History, 1989
University of Texas at Austin, BBA in Management, 1977

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2010- present  Chair, Department of History, University of Texas at El Paso
               Director, Museo Urbano
2006- present  Associate Professor of History, Department of History, University of Texas at El Paso.
2001-2006     Assistant Professor of History, Department of History, University of Texas at El Paso.
1997- 2001    Assistant Professor of History, Division of Behavioral and Cultural Sciences, University of Texas at San Antonio.

PUBLICATIONS

Book manuscripts

Crossing the Line: Mexican Children along the U.S.–Mexico Border, 1880-1940. (Under preliminary contract from the University of Arizona Press)

Public history publications

Unidos sin fronteras: La historia viviente del Centro de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Fronterizos (editor and writer) 2013

Socorro: The History of a Community (in conjunction with graduate public history class), 2005.

Socorro: A Legacy of the Past (in conjunction with graduate public history class), 2003.


Articles in journals and books (since 2000)


"Monuments of Conformity: Commemorating and Protesting Oñate on the Border," New Mexico Historical Review, Volume 82, Number 3 (Summer 2007).


Photo essay co-authored with Yolanda Retter, 500 Years of Chicana Women's History, by Betita Martinez. (Rutgers University Press; Bilingual edition (December 15, 2007).


HONORS AND AWARDS AND BOARDS

Board member, El Paso County History Society (2013- present)
Lorena Andrade

2000 Texas Ave, El Paso, TX 79901
(915)588-2760
lorena@mujerobrera.org

Experience

2011-Present  La Mujer Obrera  El Paso, TX

Executive Director

Responsible for organization’s overall growth and development including strategic planning, resource allocation, new program development, and coordination of key management. Providing key leadership in organization’s new stage of development focused on linking urban and rural border communities and populations. Key articulator of organization’s commitment to Mexican cultural heritage as motor for community empowerment and economic development. Reports to Board of Directors.

2003–2010  El Puente CDC  El Paso, TX

Operations Coordinator

Responsible for overseeing implementation of El Puente programs including social purpose businesses, facility development and management, technology and information management, and community revitalization. Works closely with program coordinators to ensure effective and efficient collaboration amongst programs to achieve organizational objectives. Has recruited and helped to train social purpose business coordinators in the planning, development and operations of the businesses. Has led efforts to plan El Puente’s 5 existing social purpose businesses, and is responsible for coordinating the team to plan Mercado Popular Mayapan, El Puente’s proposed sixth social purpose business. Reports to Executive Director.

2000 - 2003  La Mujer Obrera  El Paso, TX

Program Developer

- Responsible for the development of new program initiatives including the Health Program, the Women’s Institute, and the Bilingual Workforce Education Initiative. Responsible for working with community and organizational resources, including committees of the organization’s membership, to design each program, including its proposed objectives, activities, and staffing. Coordinated with executive director for fundraising. When programs funded, worked with program coordinators to design and implement strategies for recruitment of participants from organizational membership and broader Spanish-speaking low-income community in El Paso. Reported to executive director.

1997 - 2000  Ctr. for Popular Educ. & Community Organizing  El Paso, TX

Organizer

- Responsible for community outreach and communication with unemployed or at-risk Spanish-speaking workers. Developed bilingual materials and designed plans for their regular distribution at factories and schools. Assisted organizational coordinator in the development of over a dozen displaced worker committees. Assisted organizational coordinator and these committees in the development of local, regional and national campaigns. Reported to organizational coordinator.

1995  Wilder Research Center  St. Paul, MN

Research Assistant

- Assisted in developing, implementing and results of surveys of Mexican workers living in rural towns of Minnesota

1992–1995  La Raza Student Center  Minneapolis, MN
Coordinator

- Connected Hispanic students to opportunities and Services within the university
- Recruited Hispanic Students to the University
- Planned Cultural Events and Festivals

Education

1991–1995  University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Minneapolis, MN  BA Chicano Studies
Daniela Yliana Martagón Calderón
Visual Artist
Mexico City, 1986

Associate, co-founder, illustrator and designer of

Wonder Ponder, visual philosophy for children:

an independent Publisher House and educational Project based in Madrid, Spain

2014-present

Education

- Visual Arts degree.
  Escuela Nacional de Artes Plásticas, UNAM, Mexico 2004-2008
- Analogic and digital drawing specialty
  Escuela Nacional de Artes Plásticas, UNAM, Mexico 2008-2009
- Graphic design and web design diploma
  EduMac, Mexico 2010
- Master on Children´s Illustrated Albums
  Escuela i con i, Madrid, Spain 2012-2013
- Seminar of childhood, literature and reflection
  Escuela Peripatética de Literatura Infantil, Madrid, Spain, 2012-2014

Awards

- Classified in the Iberoamerican Illustrators Catalogue 2013

Grants

- Entrepreneur´s grant for publishing projects, given by the Fundación Germán Sánchez Ruipérez for the residence at Factoría Cultural, a creative industries centre, Madrid, Spain 2014-2015

Representation

- Represented by the Cbq literary agency, 2014-
  www.agencialiterariacbq.com

International festivals and seminars attendance

- Wonder Ponder presentation at the International Festival of Illustration Ilustratour, Valladolid, Spain, 2014
- Invited to the testimonies programme as young artist at the seminar “Cultural and Creative industries: a chance for youth” organized by the European Delegation of Southafrica at Johannesbourg, 2014
- Wonder Ponder presentation at the independent books festival “Libros Mutantes”, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain, 2015

Visual Philosophy for Children publications
- Mundo cruel
  Ellen Duthie and Daniela Martagón
  Traje de Lobo SL, Spain 2014
  *Soon to be published in Argentina by Iamiqué publisher

- Cruelty Bites
  Ellen Duthie and Daniela Martagón
  Traje de Lobo SL, Spain 2014
  *Soon to be published in South Korea by Marubol Publication

- Yo, persona
  Ellen Duthie and Daniela Martagón
  Traje de Lobo SL, Spain 2015

- I, person
  Ellen Duthie and Daniela Martagón
  Traje de Lobo SL, Spain 2015

Other narrative illustrated publications

- La casa del ciempiés
  Text by Ignacio Sanz
  Narval Editores, Spain, 2013

- El conejo en la luna
  Text by Emilio Lome
  Océano Travesía Editores, Spain (in process)

Educational market previous professional experience

- Graphic designer and illustrator of educational contents for ENOVA México, 2010-2011

Teaching experience

- Volunteer at the children’s art workshops, Taller Infantil de Artes Plásticas, Escuela Nacional de Artes Plásticas, UNAM, 2005
- Private art teacher for children and teenagers
- College social service: guide for the Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo, UNAM, 2008-2009
- Visual philosophy teacher for the art programme of Madrid’s City Hall, 2014 and 2015.
- Arte teacher at the workshops of the museum La Casa Encendida, Madrid, 2015