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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



Welcome back, Wildcats!

Welcome back to campus, everyone!

Whether you're a student, faculty, or a community member, back to school means back to the hustle and bustle of the university. It also means new incoming students and a revitalized effort to get involved in the community.

So, we would like to take this chance to reintroduce ourselves and give you a broad view of the work we facilitate.

Share this with a colleague or friend that you think may be interested in the opportunities the Confluentcenter has to offer!

Who are we?



The [Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry](#) is a unique research institution that is dedicated to supporting creative, collaborative, interdisciplinary research and public engagement activities. We provide a physical and intellectual home for the arts, humanities, and social sciences to address some of the grand challenges in society today.

“Back in 2009, 2010, there was a conversation among faculty here at the university about the need to create a humanities institute or center that we never had. And that idea evolved, to be more inclusive, not only of the humanities, but also the social sciences and the arts, and especially of the creative, energy of our colleagues in areas that normally are not considered research, such as the arts.” ~ Javier Duran



If you have been following the Confluentcenter for some time, you may be familiar with some of our programs. Take this opportunity to introduce others in your network to us, so that we can continue to grow our community, research, and our mission.

[Visit our site](#)

Research and Public Engagement Programs



Fronteridades

[Fronteridades](#) is a program funded by the Mellon Foundation that seeks to promote and define an intersectional space and elevate the voices of historically overlooked US-Mexico border communities to form a more inclusive, accurate, and just portrayal. Within Fronteridades, we partner with various community organizations and offer research opportunities to advance our understanding of our border communities.

If you want to engage in art and humanities-centered interdisciplinary research and advocacy with US-Mexico border communities, or learn more about what our scholars and community

partners are doing to advance border learning, please explore our Fronteridades programs below.

Fronteridades Lecture Series

The Fronteridades Lecture Series brings emerging and established border scholars and their expertise to the community to talk about their interdisciplinary research. The series fosters cross-regional dialogue and collaboration, bringing together scholars to share their ideas in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Remember to check our [events calendar](#) for our upcoming Fall lecture series.

Undergraduate internships

We partner with local arts and advocacy organizations and UofA faculty to offer [undergraduate students](#) the opportunity to gain a critical understanding of the U.S.-Mexico border region, its complexities, and its cultural diversity. This internship is one of the many ways we create relationships with local organizations based on reciprocity. Be sure to visit our [website](#). We will launch a new call for applications in the Fall.

Faculty and graduate fellowships

[Faculty members and graduate students](#) worked on research projects that help expand the US-Mexico border narrative through an interdisciplinary approach centered in the humanities. Fronteridades is no longer accepting applicants, but check out the work of our Fronteridades previous fellows [here](#). Also, check out our [YouTube channel](#) for video features we did on our graduate fellows for the Spring cohort.

Border Arts Collective

Through this program we connect with the local community arts organizations. We facilitate cross regional dialogue and share stories through art. One of our programs, [Becas Binacionales Nuevos Creadores](#), partners with the Instituto Municipal de Fomento a la Cultura y las Artes in Nogales, MX, to support the work of young emerging artists from Mexico's borderlands.

O'odham Art Exchange

Built on the "The Place Where Clouds Are Formed" initiative, the program supports O'odham artists from the U.S. and Mexico, reflecting on how the border has impacted the ancestral lands and culture of the Tohono O'odham people. The Center for Creative Photography is showcasing the art work commissioned for this project and is open until August 31. [Visit CCP for more information](#).

Migrant and Asylum-Seeker Stories

Through storytelling, this program helps us listen, understand, and empathize with migrants and asylum-seekers in their situations through performative testimony and community gatherings. Our partner, [Coalición de Derechos Humanos](#), has recently premiered the play "El Tiradito," which recounts the story of a Tucson shrine that memorialized the lives of people who died crossing the desert to the US.

Reclaiming the Border Narrative

The Reclaiming the Border Narrative Digital Archive is a collaboration with [UA Libraries' Special Collections](#) that houses work by US-Mexico borderlands artists, advocates, journalists, and cultural practitioners.

RBN archive



The digital archive aims to reframe and reshape national attention on migration by preserving cultural materials that reclaim the border narrative, advance migrant justice and address gaps in the historical record

RBN symposium recap

Reclaiming the Border Narrative Creative Reuse Award Recipients



Andrés Caballero

Feng-Feng Yeh

Vanessa Saavedra

CONGRATULATIONS!



Reclaiming The Border Narrative



UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Special Collections

confluencenter
for Creative Inquiry

We recently awarded three artists to repurpose materials in the RBN digital archive. Congratulations to Andrés Caballero, Vanessa Saavedra and Feng-Feng Yeh! We can't wait to see their finished products!

Feng-Feng Yeh held [a Chinese Grocery Store Pop-Up called "Vivamos Siempre Como Hermanos"](#) and had shelves stocked with goods labeled with titles from the Reclaiming the Border Narrative Digital Archive.

PandemiDiarios

[PandemiDiarios](#) is a part of a microgrant program that supported creativity from scholars and community members. Through this project, we supported their creative endeavors as they reflected on their experience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have more exciting news coming as we try and revitalize this project post-pandemic. Stick around to hear more on this!



Recipients of our first and second rounds of projects.



Show & Tell

[Show & Tells](#) brings together a variety of scholars, artists, performers and community members to share innovative and creative ideas. We host free and public events to spark conversation and create community.

One of our previous events brought together experts who work on the border and closely with migrants. The topic was "Local Perspectives on Migration," and the conversation surrounded stories, research and creative practices that advocate and elevate the historically overlooked voices of borderland communities.



We'll kick off our first event of the year with a Show & Tell. Join us for "**Life, Love and Resilience in the Borderlands**" on September 10th at 5 PM at [El Casino Ballroom](#). We'll have a discussion moderated by Dr. Lydia R. Otero, with speakers Alba Fernández-Keys, Favianna Rodriguez and Melissa del Bosque followed by mariachi, refreshments, and networking opportunities, we hope to see you there!

The poster features a central title "Life, Love and Resilience in the Borderlands" in a large, bold font. Above the title is the "show&tell" logo with the tagline "confluencenter's multimedia learning experience". Below the title, the date "September 10, 2024" and time "5:00 PM" are listed, followed by the location "El Casino Ballroom". To the left, a circular portrait of Dr. Lydia R. Otero is shown with the text "Moderator Dr. Lydia R. Otero Historian & Writer". Below this, a "Speakers" section lists three individuals: Favianna Rodriguez (Artist, Cultural Strategist & Entrepreneur), Alba Fernández-Keys (Borderlands Curator, Special Collections, University of Arizona Libraries), and Melissa del Bosque (Journalist, The Border Chronicle). At the bottom, the text "Reclaiming The Border Narrative" is displayed above logos for "UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES Special Collections" and "confluencenter for Creative Inquiry". A yellow butterfly graphic is also present at the bottom left.

[RSVP here](#)

Thank you!

Now that you know a little more about all the programs we offer, we would like to invite you to attend any of the upcoming events we will be hosting this year! Follow us on [social media](#) to be the first to know when an event is happening!

We would like to sincerely thank everyone for their unwavering support of our center. Without this community, we would not be able to continue the work we do. It is people like you who have made the Confluentcenter what it is today by encouraging our team and spreading our mission and values to others in the community.

Send this to someone you think may be interested in or benefit from what our research institution offers!



The Confluentcenter team from left to right: Javier Duran, Director; Susan Barnett, Graduate Communication Specialist; Alexandra Mora Medina, Communications and Event Coordinator; Yadira Caballero, Program Manager; Yazmin Vasquez, Administrative Associate; and Hiram Peña Bonilla, Fronteridades Project Manager. Not pictured is Michelle Ceballos, Outreach Coordinator; and Adam Fehse, website manager.



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[Land Acknowledgment](#)

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.