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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



October Newsletter

As we welcome November and the crisp air begins to dance across our desert landscape, it's a wonderful time to reflect on our vibrant community, events and opportunities that we offer at the Confluentcenter!

Dive into this edition to learn about our upcoming events, some October reflections and special features.

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



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.

[Visit Our Site](#)

Events & Opportunities

Calling All Undergrads: Spring 2025 Paid Internship Opportunity!

Are you passionate about understanding the complexities and cultural diversity of the U.S.-Mexico border region? Then this is the internship for you!

Intern with local nonprofits, grassroots organizations, or government offices, collaborating with marginalized communities to elevate their voices and challenge mainstream narratives.

Learn more about the position and apply clicking the button below. *Share this with anyone you think may be interested!*

[Apply Here](#)

**CALLING U OF A
UNDERGRAD STUDENTS**

◆ **Apply to the Fronteridades Internship!** ◆

Selected students focused on the arts, humanities, and social sciences will have the opportunity to work with non-profit organizations advocating for U.S.-Mexico border communities.



\$15 per hour
Apply by Nov. 15th
More information at Confluentcenter.arizona.edu

[Scan for application](#)

  

**THE HISTORY, CONTROVERSY
AND THE RISE OF
NARCOCORRIDOS**

Confluentcenter's Fronteridades Program in collaboration with the Binational Migration Institute presents a conversation with professor **Juan Carlos Ramirez-Pimienta.**

**NOVEMBER 21
ON ZOOM @
5:30 PM**



  

BMI and Fronteridades presents:

Mark your calendars for a free webinar event in partnership with the Binational Migration Institute. A conversation with scholar Juan Carlos Ramirez-Pimienta on the history, controversy and the rise of narcocorridos.

This webinar will be moderated by Dr. Javier Duran, Director of the Confluentcenter.

[Register Here](#)

Indigenous Activist-Educator Voices and Local Ecologies

Join this special co-sponsored public event on Indigenous Activist-Educator Voices and Local Ecologies on November 15 at 6 p.m. in the South Ballroom of the Student Union

Elder Vernon Masayesva and Professor Sheilah Nicholas will share their experience as ecological/educational activists and language/literacy educators in support of their ancestral Hopi lands and peoples as an inextricable part of our spiritual and ecological world.

Special Event

Indigenous Activist-Educator Voices and Local Ecologies

South Ballroom, Student Union 15 November 2024 6-7 PM

Elder Vernon Masayesva and Professor Sheilah Nicholas will share their experience as ecological/educational activists and language/literacy educators in support of their ancestral Hopi lands and peoples as an inextricable part of our spiritual and ecological world.



Vernon Masayesva

Exec. Dir. Black Mesa Trust
Hopi Leader



Sheilah E. Nicholas

Professor, University of
Arizona



October Reflections

October at the Confluentcenter was a vibrant month of storytelling and community engagement. Highlights below include *Ugly Little Monkeys: A True American Story*, which drew over 150 attendees for a screening and panel with creators and scholars, and Vanessa Saavedra's moving *Ralidades Fronterizas* exhibit celebrating border resilience. Mellon-Fronteridades fellow Andrés Caballero presented his project, "Borderland Masks," while our interns shared impactful experiences working with Proyecto Esperanza. Co-sponsored events explored borderland memories, Indigenous storytelling, and Black identity in contemporary art, all enriching our mission to foster dialogue and creative exchange across communities.

Ugly Little Monkeys: A True American Story

A Reflection on our most recent Show & Tell event

Over 150 people in attendance to watch “Ugly Little Monkeys: A True American Story”. After the film we had a fantastic panel with Wilfred Arvizu, David Valdez and Francisco Escobar which was moderated by Confluentcenter Director, Javier Duran. We want to thank our sponsors who supported this screening, University of Arizona Hispanic Serving Institutions, Latinx Staff and Faculty Association, School of Music, W.A. Franke Honors College, and the Adalberto and Ana Guerrero Center.



Also, a huge thanks to Raul Aguirre for connecting us to David Valdez, and Marla Franco who spoke at our screening. Thank you to all the students, staff, faculty and community members who joined us for this successful event.

[Film Website](#)

Reclaiming the Border Narrative Creative Reuse



This month we celebrated and attended the last of the [Reclaiming the Border Narrative Creative Reuse](#) project awardees, Vanessa Saavedra!

Her project, “Ralidades Fronterizas,” a solo exhibition built off the Reclaiming the Border Narrative Digital Archive and her own experience on both sides.

“Through my work, I invite viewers to actively engage with this intersection of culture, struggle and resilience,” Saavedra said.

[RBN Digital Archive](#)

Fronteridades in the News

UA grad student brings lucha libre fans’ stories to life in upcoming exhibition

Andrés Caballero’s ‘Borderland Masks’ explores fan culture, tradition and identity along the U.S.-Mexico border through the end of October

 ZOE MONTAÑO, REPORTER • October 16, 2024



Andrés Caballero's "Borderland Masks" highlights the deep connection between lucha libre fans and their roots along the U.S.-Mexico border. (Photo by Andrés Caballero 2024)

Arizona Sonoran News

Student journalist, Zoe Montañó, spotlighted our Mellon-Fronteridades Fellow, Andrés Caballero on his project, "Borderland Masks," which he presented on October 24.

The exhibit presented a series of multimedia pieces telling the stories of Lucha Libre fans around the U.S.-Mexico border.

“In reality, border communities exist and they have a lot of very positive things happening,” said Director of the Confluentcenter Javier Duran. “They create a lot of different narratives and stories. Our project was an effort to amplify and elevate these stories and the daily lives of border communities in general.”

[Read the Story](#)

El Sur

Victor Mercado sat down with our 2024 cohort of undergraduate interns to ask about their experience in the Mellon-Fronteridades Undergraduate Internship Program.

"Working at Proyecto Esperanza means I finally get to give back to my community by empowering them with knowledge of their rights and helping them navigate language barriers—something I've personally experienced," Belen Muro Quijada said.

[Read the story](#)

Fronteridades Part 2: Raíces

Oct 26 - Written By Victor Mercado

How the Confluencer is funding internships to help undergraduate students support humanitarian work in the Borderlands

This six-part series on the *Fronteridades* program is sponsored by the University of Arizona [Confluencer for Creative Inquiry](#)

[Leer este artículo en Español](#)



UA Confluencer Interns Alivia Alexander, Elisabeth Clark, and Belen Muro Quijada. Photo credit: El Sur

Cosponsored Events!



Indigenous Philosophies & Storytelling: All Souls Day

This month we heard from a Transnational Indigenous Pedagogies exchange panel with the Mazahua, Nahua, Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui. They discussed 'All Souls Day' from an indigenous lens of their respective tribe.

This co-sponsored event is part of The Indigenous Pedagogies Speaker Series. Make sure to stay up to date with the [ITEP's Indigenous Pedagogies Speaker Series](#) and to view previous talks.



Amplifying Black Artistry in the Classroom

Ms. Elizabeth "Lizz" Denneau, MFA-Art teacher at Tucson High School hosted an Art Education Professional Development workshop, "Race & Identity Through Contemporary Art," for TUSD art educators (middle/high school).

The event focused on contemporary Black artists (working across several different mediums) at the national and local levels.

Family, Memory & the Borderlands

Confluencer Director, Javier Duran moderated a discussion with Mellissa Martinez on her book "The Molino" and Tim Hernandez on his book "They Call You Back" an event hosted by the University of Arizona Press. If you are interested in purchasing a copy visit the [University of Arizona Press website](#).

Thank you!

This growth could not be possible without your support! Thank you for finding value in what we do at the Confluentcenter. With more team members, we can't wait to bring more value to you all!

Follow us on [social media](#) to be the first to know when an event is happening!

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



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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.