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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



## September Newsletter

Fall is soon approaching, and we're excited for many things: cooler weather, the holiday season, and what the following months have to bring in terms of events. We kicked off this semester strong, with a Show & Tell that had over 120 attendees! Thank you all for coming out and enjoying music, food and an intellectual panel.

In this newsletter, you'll learn about upcoming Confluentcenter events, some September reflections, and what's going on at the CCI building (spoiler: we're growing!).

As always, thank you for supporting the work we do, we look forward to continuing to provide resources, events, and opportunities!

*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

### Spring 2025 Paid Internship Opportunity

If you are passionate about understanding the complexities and cultural diversity of the U.S.-Mexico border region then this is the internship for you.

This is your chance to work directly 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**

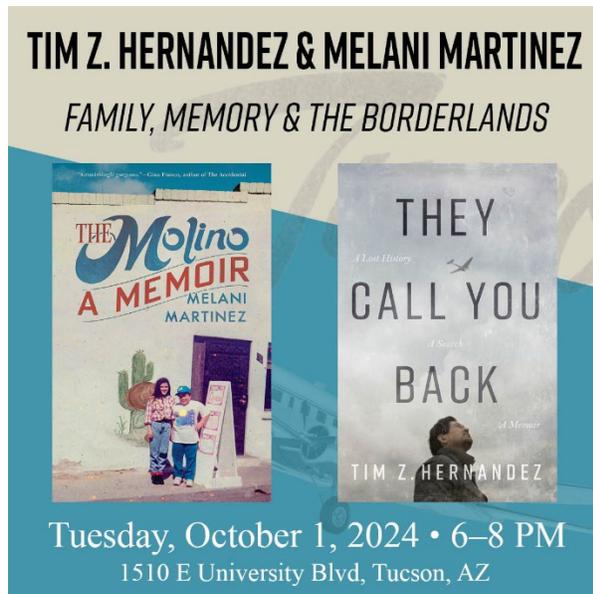
✦ **Apply to the Fronteridades Internship!** ✦

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.

Scan for application

\$15 per hour  
Apply by Nov. 15th  
More information at [Confluencenter.arizona.edu](http://Confluencenter.arizona.edu)

confluencenter for Creative Inquiry | Mellon Foundation | Fronteridades



**TIM Z. HERNANDEZ & MELANI MARTINEZ**  
*FAMILY, MEMORY & THE BORDERLANDS*

**THE Molino**  
A MEMOIR  
MELANI MARTINEZ

**THEY CALL YOU BACK**  
A Search  
A Memoir  
TIM Z. HERNANDEZ

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 • 6–8 PM  
1510 E University Blvd, Tucson, AZ

### Borderland Books Panel

Check out this event, which will be moderated by our very own director, **Dr. Javier Duran**. **Tim Z. Hernandez** and **Melani Martinez** will read from their books and discuss common themes. Both books document a lost history through the haunting, other-worldly voices calling us to remember, search, uncover, and restore the authors' place and impact—their essential belonging—as descendants of farm and food workers and in the vast Borderlands. For more information on the event, and to register, click below.

[More Information](#)

**FREE  
MOVIE  
SCREENING**

JOIN US FOR A FREE SCREENING OF THE UGLY  
LITTLE MONKEYS: A TRUE AMERICAN STORY

THERE WILL BE A Q&A WITH EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
AND CO-DIRECTOR DAVID E. VALDEZ, CO-  
DIRECTOR ENRIQUE CASTILLO, AND FORMER  
CHANGUITOS FEOS MEMBER AND AUTHOR  
WILFRED ARVIZU. THIS EVENT WILL BE MODERATED  
BY CEO OF REA MEDIA GROUP RAUL AGUIRRE.

**OCTOBER 9TH 2 PM - 5 PM  
THE GALLAGHER THEATER  
1303 E UNIVERSITY BLVD  
TUCSON, AZ 85719**

confluentcenter  
for Creative Inquiry

Hispanic Serving  
Institution Initiatives

ADALBERTO & ANNA  
GUERRERO  
STUDENT CENTER

School of Music

W.A. Franke  
Honors College

## Free Film Screening!

Join the Confluentcenter in a documentary screening of the "*Ugly Little Monkeys: A True American Story*," on Wednesday, **Oct. 9** from **2-5 pm**.

Los Changuitos Feos are the first youth mariachi group in the nation. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the film director and some of the original Changos. **RSVP below!**

This cross departmental screening is made possible by the Adalberto & Anna Guerrero Student Center, Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives, Latinx Staff & Faculty Association, the School of Music and the W.A. Franke Honors College.

[RSVP Here](#)

## September Reflections

# show&tell

confluentcenter's multimedia  
learning experience

### Show & Tell: Love, Life and Resilience in the Borderlands

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024



#### A Reflection on our most recent Show & Tell event

*"On September 10, The Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry and the University of Arizona Libraries Special Collection collaborated in hosting "Show & Tell: Life, Love and Resilience in the Borderlands," at El Casino Ballroom. This Show & Tell presented the end of the Reclaiming the Border Narrative project, but not the end of the discussion of migration, journalism, activism and archiving. We heard from artist, cultural strategist, and entrepreneur, **Favianna Rodriguez**, Border Chronicle Journalist, **Melissa del Bosque**, and Borderlands Curator at UA Libraries' Special Collections, **Alba Fernández-Keys**. The panel was moderated by historian and writer **Dr. Lydia Otero.**"*



## Show&Tell

LOVE, LIFE  
AND  
RESILIENCE  
IN THE  
BORDERLANDS



CONFLUENTCENTER FOR  
CREATIVE INQUIRY & UA  
LIBRARIES SPECIAL  
COLLECTION

*"Reflecting on our recent evening of discussion, I am filled with gratitude for the vibrant exchange that unfolded around the future of historical preservation, journalism, and cultural work in our US-Mexico borderlands. This gathering was a powerful reminder of our commitment to amplifying the diverse narratives that shape our region and beyond."*

*"As we enjoyed the lively performance of **Mariachi Atzlan de Pueblo High School**, directed by **John Contreras**, and shared refreshments by **El Antojo Poblano**, it was heartening to witness the sense of community that came to the event. Together, we celebrated our rich tapestry of experiences and envisioned a future where these stories continue to empower us. This evening reinforced the importance of preserving our shared history and the transformative power of storytelling in shaping our collective identity."*

*"Thank you all for attending our event! Your presence and participation made the day truly special, and we are deeply grateful for your support and enthusiasm. We hope you enjoyed the experience as much as we enjoyed having you. Looking forward to seeing you at future events!"*

**~ Alexandra Mora Media,**  
Communications and Events  
Coordinators



Please head over to our YouTube channel to watch the program.

[Watch on YouTube](#)

## Reclaiming the Border Narrative Creative Reuse



[RBN Digital  
Archive](#)

This month we also saw another RBN Creative Reuse project come to life. Andrés Caballero, one of the three grantees, presented his zine book "Del Otro Lado," which aims to promote the [Reclaiming the Border Narrative digital archive](#). The book features various projects on migration and resilience from the digital archive and was distributed for free to the University of Arizona and external organizations focused on migration justice.

The RBN Digital Archive is a community-focused archive centering the diversity and multidimensionality of experiences that transcend dominant narratives and amplifies the creative works of artists, advocates, journalists, and cultural practitioners dedicated to advancing migrant justice and a broader understanding of US-Mexico border communities.

## CCI's Traditional Blessing



Pictured: Javier Duran, Elizabeth Gaxiola, Miguel Flores (Pascua Yaqui p=traiditional practitioner), Yazmin Vasquez, Alexandra Mora Medina, Yadira Caballero, Maritza Cardenas, Adam Fehse, Hiram Peña and Susan Barnett. Not pictured is Michelle Ceballo, Sage Furrer.

We want to sincerely thank **Mr. Miguel Flores Jr.**, a traditional practitioner from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Tohono O'odham Nation, who conducted a traditional blessing for the Confluentcenter and all of our team members.

The traditional blessing holds great significance as we embark on a new academic year. It provides us with a moment to honor our neighboring relatives (the Pascua Yaqui and the Tohono O'odham people) and to seek guidance and positive energy for our work ahead. This practice not only enriches our understanding of cultural traditions but also fosters a sense of unity and purpose within our team.

We also want to thank Mr. Flores for inviting us to the grand opening of the Indigenous Resilience Center. Visit their website below to learn more about the work IRES facilitates.

[Visit Their Website](#)

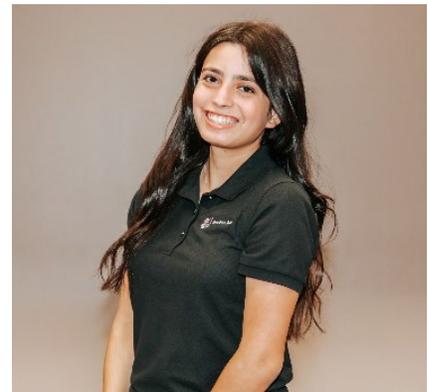
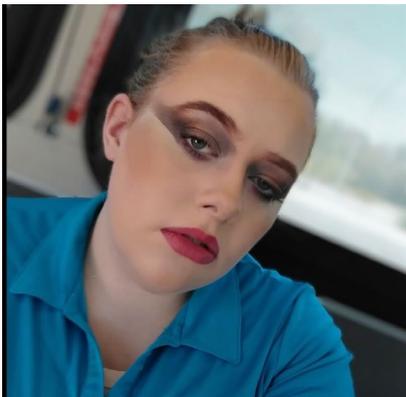
## Confluencer is Growing!

This month we had the honor to expand our team to include FOUR new team members!



We're very excited to announce our Postdoc Fronteridades Fellow, **Elizabeth Gaxiola**. She will be working under our Fronteridades program and contribute to expanding border learning through storytelling, art, and community engagement. Her lived experiences at the U.S.-Mexico border, along with her research background, and work in higher education, which has focused on borderlands studies and social justice, including her dissertation on participatory arts research in migrant shelters in Mexico. She is very excited to create community-centered curricula and experiential learning opportunities that highlight the misrepresented narratives in our borderlands. We are looking forward to having her on our team to help build up our program even more!

[More About Fronteridades](#)



**Sage Furrer** is our new graphic designer! She is behind some of the graphics you will be seeing this year. She is a junior majoring in Retail and Consumer Science. She transferred from Pima Community College this year and she's excited to try new things at the U of A, like the sewing lab in McLelland Park. In her spare time you can find her drawing.

**Esperanza Fernandez** is our newest Multimedia Specialist Intern! She is a sophomore studying Journalism with a minor in Fashion Industry Sci & Technology. She will be producing multimedia projects about our center! On her free time she likes to attend U of A sporting games!

**Victoria Gonzalez** is our newest Archivist and Media Campaign Intern! She is a sophomore studying Psychology and Journalism with a minor in Theater. She is excited to create content that promotes our centers work from when we first opened. On her spare time she enjoys participating and watching musical theater, traveling and hanging out with friends.

### Thank you!

This growth could not be possible without your support! Thank you for finding value in what we do at the Conflucenter. 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!*



# conflucenter for Creative Inquiry



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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.*