



# IDEAS Memo

## IDEAS Memo September 2023

### HISPANIC/LATINX/E HERITAGE MONTH

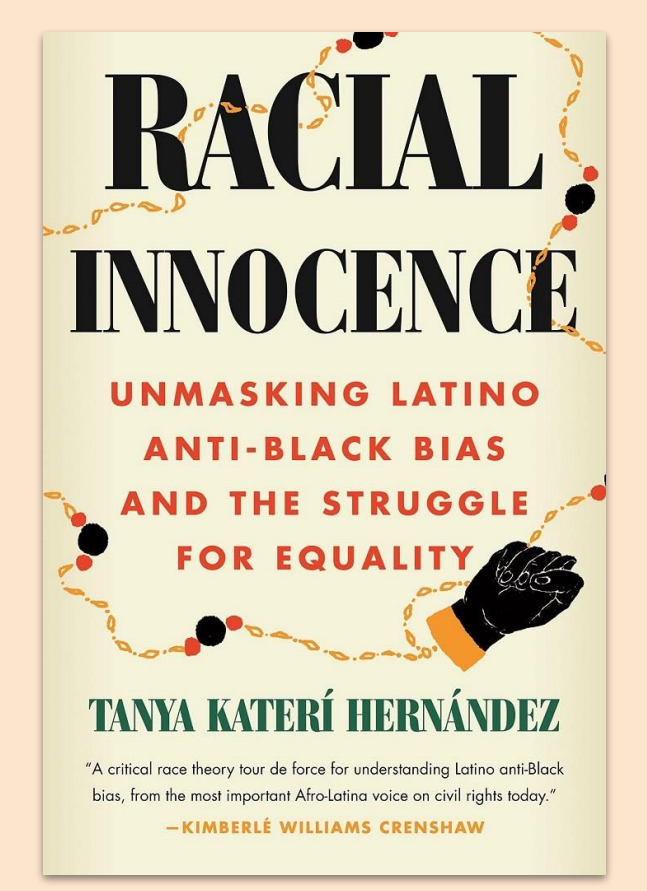
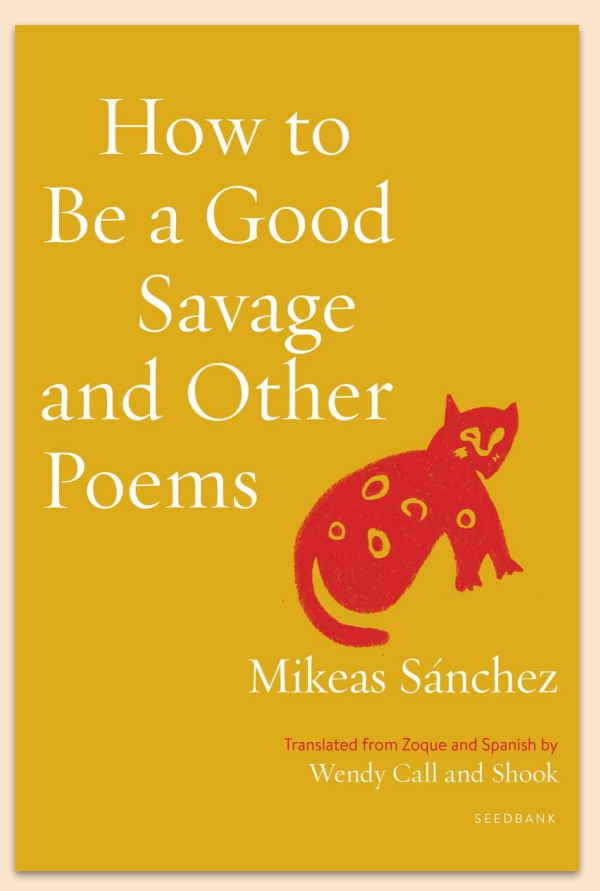
September 15th – October 15th

Hispanic/Latinx/e Heritage month is a time to celebrate Hispanic & Latin culture while also learning about and confronting colorism, and anti-Black & anti-indigenous racism in the Hispanic/Latinx/e community.

National Museum of the American Latino [virtual exhibits](#)

Indigenous poet **Mikeas Sánchez** examines colonialism, feminism, & activism

**Hernández** examines anti-Black bias and white supremacy



### Hispanic/Latinx/e Women in Neuroscience



**Isabel de Andrés, Ph.D.**

“Inspiring Spanish neuroscientist at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM). Her current research focuses on REM sleep & opiates actions on sleep. Her passion & dedication for research & teaching make her an ideal role model to future generations of young women scientists to follow.”

“An inspiring Argentinian neuroscientist & Emeritus Professor [at] the University of Buenos Aires (UBA). Her contributions to Neurochemistry [span] the cholinergic receptor, thyroid hormones in brain development, and myelinogenesis. She has overcome many obstacles to become the leader in Neuroscience that she is today. Her story will continue to inspire.”



**Giannina Pasquini, Ph.D.**



**Herminia Pasantes, Ph.D.**

“Highly honored Mexican neuroscientist at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) & writer. She is well known for her discovery of taurine as an osmolyte in volume regulation in the retina & brain cells. Dr. Pasantes has paved the way for many women neuroscientists and her story alone is an inspiration to women. ¡Sí se puede!”

“Outstanding Colombian neuroscientist who was a pioneer in the field of brain research in Colombia and contributed to the establishment of Universidad del Valle’s first doctoral program in Biomedical Sciences with an emphasis in Neuroscience. Her line of research began with the study of cytoarchitecture of the cerebral cortex. She is pleased that women are now important contributors in the field.”



**Martha Isabel Escobar, M.Sc.**



Read their full inspiring interviews in *“In Celebration of Hispanic Women in Neuroscience”* in *Frontiers in Neuroanatomy* (Salcedo-Arellano et al., 2023)

## IDEAS Community Highlights



**Associate Director of the UMB Intercultural Center**

- Dominican American first-gen graduate & professional from a working class background
- Develops programs & initiatives that support historically marginalized students

**Rosemary Ferreira, M.Ed (She, her, hers)**



**Assistant Professor in the Depart. of Neurobiology**

- Daughter of Cuban immigrants and first-gen college graduate & PhD
- Established the Promoting Belonging in Neurobiology Committee to increase inclusivity and cultural awareness

**Barbara Juarez, PhD (She, her, hers)**



# 5 Pointers to educate, promote diversity and inclusion, and combat racism

## Read Nature Editorial **“US Supreme Court on affirmative action: a bitter blow to educational inclusion”** —

This summer the Supreme Court passed down decisions that strip away educational opportunities, environmental protections, and LGBTQ+ rights. To get involved and learn more about the **Judiciary Act of 2023**, visit **Take Back the Court**, an organization dedicated to re-balancing the court and restoring judicial integrity.

**Enroll in “Safe Space Online Micro-Course”** Safe Space Online brings UMB’s traditional LGBTQ+ Safe Space program to the virtual world, allowing participants to build their LGBTQ+ allyship skills, engage with a cohort of online peers, and learn about LGBTQ+ identities, activism, support, and inclusive best practices, all from the comfort of their home or office, at any time or any day. This self-paced micro-course is free for all UMB students and employees.

**Podcast Playlist: Add these podcast episodes to your playlist — “Hispanic, Latino, Latinx?” & “Colorism in the Black, Asian, and Latinx Communities”** from **The Table with the Intercultural Center**, and **“Demystifying Doctoral Training”** from **Building Up the Nerve with NIH**.

**Watch “A Million Miles Away”**: Mexican director Alejandra Márquez Abella shares the true story of NASA flight engineer **José Hernández**. “José became an astronaut *because* he was a migrant farm worker, not in spite of it. He had a set of abilities like resilience, work ethic and the community standing by each other. You carry that in your background and that’s what makes you succeed. It’s not against you, it’s for you.”— Márquez Abella

**Check out Our Migrant Souls: A Meditation on Race and the Meanings and Myths of “Latino”** by **Héctor Tobar**: “*Our Migrant Souls* decodes the meaning of “Latino” as a racial and ethnic identity in the modern United States, and seeks to **give voice to the angst and anger of young Latino people who have seen *latinidad* transformed into hateful tropes** about “illegals” and have faced insults, harassment, and division based on white insecurities and economic exploitation.”— LA Times

## IDEAS Community Highlights



### Rosemary Ferreira, M.Ed (She, her, hers)

Rosemary identifies as a Dominican American, first-generation graduate and professional from a working-class background. As the associate director of the Intercultural Center at UMB, Rosemary creates programming throughout the year that celebrates and honors communities that have historically been excluded and marginalized from higher education. She also facilitates educational workshops and dialogues that engage students, staff, and faculty from across the seven schools at UMB to think critically about a variety of social issues, unpack harmful implicit biases, and create opportunities for intentional growth towards healing, justice, and being in community with others. A highlight in Rosemary’s career has been serving as the keynote speaker of the Latinx Graduation Ceremony at the University of Maryland, College Park (one of Rosemary’s alma maters). In her speech, **Rosemary encouraged students to push back against narratives that seek to dehumanize and stigmatize marginalized peoples, including the ways that white supremacy, anti-Blackness, and anti-Indigeneity exist within the Latinx community**. She also highlighted the importance of mental health, particularly the balance between self care and community care. Creating a space of both love and accountability for her community was an important accomplishment for Rosemary. Learn more about the great work Rosemary and her colleagues are doing at the UMB Intercultural Center and beyond [here](#).



### Barbara Juarez, PhD (She, her, hers)

Barbara Juarez is a daughter of Cuban immigrants and is the first in her family to complete college and receive a PhD. With regard to promoting diversity and inclusion in the community, she has found that the most effective approaches to institute change to promote these environments are based on **(1)** Improving recruitment and retention of underrepresented individuals, **(2)** providing mentoring/advocacy, **(3)** increasing the representation of scientists from diverse backgrounds in spaces of success, and **(4)** ensuring access to equitable opportunities. She has helped establish two diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI) committees while working on her dissertation (Icahn School of Medicine Diverse Brains Initiative) and postdoctoral research (University of Washington’s (UW) Department of Pharmacology) to meet these goals. She has also recently established the Department of Neurobiology’s Promoting Belonging in Neurobiology Committee, where they seek to increase inclusivity and cultural awareness, which also use the same approach above. She has also served as a PREP Scholar (Icahn School of Medicine) Mentor and a NSP Scholar (SfN) mentor, both programs she was a part of when she was a trainee. A highlight in Barbara’s career has been the collaborations that she has been able to be a part of to answer research questions that could not have been achieved individually. Science is not a vacuum and she thinks that the times she has been most excited about science is pitching ideas back and forth to her friends and having the ability to explore those ideas. She’s really proud of those publications! Check out her latest publication titled “Temporal scaling of dopamine neuron firing & dopamine release by distinct channels shape behavior” in Science Advances [here](#).



**UMB Student Affairs | Noche Latina**  
**Wednesday, October 11, 2023**  
**5:15-6:30 PM**  
**SMC Campus Center (621 W Lombard St.)**

Join the Intercultural Center for a night celebrating Latinx culture! Play a game of dominoes, paint your own ceramics to represent your cultura, and of course, there will be music and dinner served!



[Register here](#)



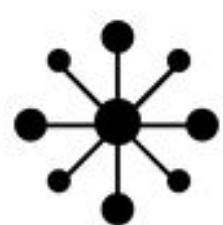
### Fiesta Baltimore 2023

The 5th Annual Latino Cultural Festival in  
 Patterson Park, on **October 7 & 8**  
**11 AM — 7 PM**  
**Patterson Park**



### Celebrating Hispanic/Latinx/e in the DC Region

Check out the variety of different events happening in Washington D.C. to celebrate Hispanic/Latinx/e Heritage Month [here](#)



**Científico Latino**

Changing the next generation of STEM

“**Científico Latino** aims to promote an environment of inclusivity in STEM and increase the number of scientists from minoritized backgrounds in higher education in the sciences through mentorship, open-access resources, and professional development opportunities.”

To access their free resources and/or get involved/volunteer, visit their website [here](#)



“**Tendea Family** The mission of Tendea Family is to advance Baltimore’s Black Community by operating transformative programs focused on identity, self improvement, community service and development.”

Looking for youth interns (10-18 year olds)  
 Sponsor a youth [here](#)



**Mental Health Rest Stop**

**Guided Yoga & Meditation with Dr. Erikka Dzirasa from Black In Neuro**



## Maui Mutual Aid Fund

**MAUI MUTUAL AID FUND**

Fiscally Sponsored by: [www.grantscentralstation.org](http://www.grantscentralstation.org)

Facebook: Maui Fire, Flood, & Disaster Relief Group  
 Insta: Maui Rapid Response



For direct support of 'Ohana impacted by storm, wind, & fire

Donations Accepted  
[www.bit.ly/mauimutualaide](http://www.bit.ly/mauimutualaide)

All funds will be distributed as quickly as possible to vulnerable 'Ohana in need, kūpuna, persons with physical disabilities, renters, and those who have no insurance or are underinsured.

Needs lists & drop off locations coming soon  
 updated on socials

Connect 'Ohana in need to us:  
[nicolerhuguenin@gmail.com](mailto:nicolerhuguenin@gmail.com)  
[auntykamiki@gmail.com](mailto:auntykamiki@gmail.com)  
 650-279-1662

In early August, wildfires devastated parts of the island of Maui, Hawaii. Given our focus on marginalized communities, we would like to highlight that before these fires, indigenous Hawaiians disproportionately made up Hawaii’s unsheltered population.

Not only does this catastrophic event worsen this ongoing crisis, **investors are currently using the tragedy to buy out land from these affected communities.**

Therefore, we ask you to consider donating to local organizations run by and focused on protecting these communities. Here we have highlighted the **Maui Mutual Aid Fund** and **‘Āina Momona**.

## Stop Cop City



The fight against the development of the ‘Cop City’ in Atlanta, Georgia continues as residents gather petitions signatures for this controversial development to be put on the ballot. Despite these efforts, the city continues to push forward with the project (read more [here](#)).

An indictment released in August “charges 61 people—including protesters, activists, bail fund organizers, and legal observers” under the RICO (Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Orgs) act

A deeper dive into the indictment and crackdowns on activists in Atlanta can be found [here](#). The Baltimore Banner recently [reported](#) on a proposed 330 million dollar project, similar to ‘Cop City’, for the city of Baltimore.