EXAMINING PRIVILEGE IN CLASSIFICATIONS: Connecting Critical Information Literacy to Conversations on “Latinx”

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1. Context
   • How did we arrive at “Latinx”? What are its linguistic implications?

2. Classifications & Critical Information Literacy
   • How can we teach students to be critical when approaching information systems, including our own?

3. Strategies for Approaching Discussions
   • How can we get students to connect their own processes of self-classification to institutional processes of classification?
Latin@ Graduate Student Association & Emissaries for Graduate Student Diversity

Presents

Study Circle

Sunday, September 30th

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM
La Casa
Pizza, books & great company

LGSA

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Latin@ Graduate Student Association
SONOMA STATE

Día de Lxs Muertxs

Join MALCS de SSU, Undocu-Scholars Coalition, and NAK

Hosted by MEChA de SSU

Nov. 1 at 10am–2pm, Salazar Plaza
Nov. 2 at 10am–2pm, Seawolf Plaza

LATINX COMMUNITY & ALLY LUNCHEON

If you are a member of the Latinx community, an ally, or an accomplice, join us for lunch. First come, first served.

February 22 | 12 PM to 1:30 PM | Student Center 2020

MEChA de Sonoma

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán . . . Sonoma State University
POLL

WHAT TERM IS PREDOMINANTLY USED AT YOUR CAMPUS (OR INSTITUTIONAL COMMUNITY)?
BEFORE “LATINX”

- **Latino**: short for *latinoamericano*, becomes more widely used for its distance from Spanish colonizers and oppressors.
- **Latina/o**: Anti-patriarchal term that places the feminine before the masculine.
- **Latina@**: A gender-neutral term encapsulating the masculine and feminine equally. Mostly denoted only in written form, lacked a common or widely-used pronunciation.
- **HISPANC**: First appears in census after La Raza activists advocate in 50s and 60s for a unifying term.
- **Latinx**: A non-binary, gender-inclusive term that entered the mainstream on U.S. college campuses around 2014.
Any given classification provides surfaces of resistances (where the real resists its definition), blocks against certain agendas, and smooth roads for others.

LATINX:
A non-binary, gender-inclusive alternative to Latino/a. It gained popularity on college campuses around 2014 and has increasingly entered the mainstream since.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PROS</th>
<th>CONS</th>
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<td>• Inclusive of non-binary/gender-queer folks</td>
<td>• Elitist</td>
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<td>• De-centers gender from conversation</td>
<td>• Excludes recent U.S. migrants or Spanish speakers outside U.S.</td>
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<td>• Follows in the tradition of “border spaces”</td>
<td>• Linguistic Imperialism</td>
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<td>• Conflicting Use</td>
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GOOGLE TRENDS FOR “LATINX” INTEREST OVER TIME
GOOGLE TRENDS FOR “LATINX” INTEREST BY REGION

1. United States: 100
2. Puerto Rico: 30
3. Canada: 29
4. Australia: 17
5. Singapore: 15

Include low search volume regions
Spanish is a GENDERED language, but not always a GENDERING language

Describing inanimate objects
• la mesa (table, f.)  • el auto (car, m.)
• la corbata (necktie, f.)  • el libro (book, m.)

Nouns that reverse category
• la radio (radio, f.)  • el planeta (planet, m.)
• la mano (hand, f.)  • el mapa (map, m.)

Marking human gender
• el abogado/la abogada (lawyer, m./f.)

Common gender
• el dentista / la dentista (dentist, m./f.)

Groups of people
• nosotros (“we”: group of men or mixed group)
• nosotras (“we”: group of women)
"El hombre Mexicano es una persona indígena."

The Mexican man is an indigenous person.

Since biological sex does not necessarily correspond with gendered nouns or adjectives, is Spanish already gender fluid?
6 Asian-Latinx Women Share What They Wish You Knew About Their Identity

By JANEL MARTINEZ | Sept 19 2018

Latinx Female Founders Receive Only 0.4% of Venture Capital Funding

The Spotify Playlist: Latinx Women Defy Categorization

OpEd: A Reflection on Afro Latinx Women's Day
The materials themselves are linguistically controlled, corralled in classification structures that fix items in place, and they are described using controlled vocabularies that reduce and universalize language, remarkably resistant to change.

Emily Drabinski | Queering the Catalog (2013) | pg. 94
All information technologies favor some content or users over others. One cannot design a neutral system.

Siva Vaidhyanathan | The Googlization of Everything (2012) | pg. 62
On October 11th the SSU Library hosted a brownbag roundtable entitled “To Be or Not To Be Latinx?” which was attended by faculty, undergraduates, graduate students, and staff.

Conversation Prompts:

• What is to be gained by the use of “Latinx” and what might be lost?
• Who does the term include? Who might the term exclude?
• What hegemonies does the term "Latinx" transgress? What power structures could it recreate?
• How does "Latinx" connect to your own experience and identity?
Identity, social activism, and the pursuit of higher education: the journey stories of undocumented and unafraid community activists

Susana M. Muñoz 1972-2015

Details

Title
Identity, social activism, and the pursuit of higher education: the journey stories of undocumented and unafraid community activists

Other Titles
Journey stories of undocumented and unafraid community activists

Author
Susana M. Muñoz 1972-

Subjects
Illegal aliens -- Education (Higher) -- United States
Illegal alien children -- Government policy -- United States
Illegal aliens -- United States
Identity (Psychology) -- United States
Youth -- Political activity -- United States
Students -- Political activity -- United States
Social action -- United States
Youth movements -- United States
Educational equalization -- United States
What happens when people don't recognize themselves in a classification assigned to them?
FUTURISTIC ANTHROPOLOGISTS

A ROLE-PLAYING ACTIVITY
The world we see is not the world as it is, but the world as we have learned to see it, oriented in large part by an inherited language with its already established obsessions and webs of associations.

Brent Davis | Inventions of Teaching (2004) | pg. 100
QUESTIONS?

Examining Privilege in Classifications:
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REFERENCES


FURTHER READING


