

# Inaugural Symposium of Latin American Studies, Utah Valley University

## “Latin America in the World”

November 3, 2016

### Lakeview Room, Utah Valley University Library

8:30-9:00am **Breakfast**

9:00-9:10am **Welcome:** Greg Briscoe, Coordinator of Latin American Studies, Utah Valley University

**Introductory Remarks:** David Yells, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

### Session 1 Lakeview Room (LI 428)

9:10-9:30am **Christian Zolniski**, University of Texas-Arlington

*“The Value of Latino Studies in Higher Education: Who Benefits?”*

9:30-9:50am **Jeff Shumway**, Brigham Young University

*“Reflections on Latin America and the World”*

9:50-10:00am **Questions**

### Session 2 Lakeview Room (LI 428)

10:00-10:20am **Lynn England and Richy Ramos**, Utah Valley University and UVU Study Abroad in Cuba 2016

*“Cuba: Breaking the Blockade Peacefully”*

10:20-10:30am **Rees Davidson**, University of Utah

*“Urban Agriculture and Sustainability in Cuba”*

10:30-10:40am **Miranda Best**, University of Utah

*“Cuban Identity and Globalization”*

10:40-10:50am **Parker Belnap**, University of Utah

*“Contemporary Issues of the Cuban Economy”*

10:50-11:00am **Danielle Martinez**, University of Utah

*“Gender in Contemporary Cuba”*

11:00-11:15am **Questions**

### Keynote Speaker & Lunch—Lakeview Room (LI 428)

11:30am-  
12:30pm **KEYNOTE SPEAKER Ruth Behar, Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology,  
University of Michigan**

*“Cuba and its Diaspora: Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay”*

**Lunch served: Deli Sandwich Bar**

12:30-12:45 **Questions**

### Session 3 Lakeview Room (LI 428)

1:00-1:20pm **Débora Ferreira**, Utah Valley University

*“Protest Art at Today’s Dilma Impeachment”*

1:20-1:40pm **Rex Nielsen**, Brigham Young University

*“Ethnic Diversity in the Americas: A Comparative Study of Asian Immigrants in NYC and Sao Paulo”*

1:40-2:00pm **Anna P. Murta**, Utah Valley University  
*"Angels of the Sun: A Case Study of Production and Consumption of Socially-Committed Films in Brazil"*

2:00-2:15pm **Questions**

### Session 4A Timpanogos Room (LI 421)

2:30-3:45pm **Lola Lorenzo and Rachel White**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
*"Poetry Writing Workshop, Martín Espada & the Poetry of Political Imagination"*

### Session 4B Lakeview Room (LI 428)

2:30-2:50pm **Sara Ulloa**, Utah Valley University  
*"The Challenges of Sustainability for Women of the Mountains"*

2:50-3:10pm **Maria del Rosio Barajas Escamilla**, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte-Tijuana, Mexico  
*"Participation in the Global Production Networks on the U.S./Mexico Border"*

3:10-3:30pm **Lourdes Alberto**, University of Utah  
*"Transnational, Transborder, and Bordercrossing: Indigenous Latinos in the US"*

3:30-3:45pm **Questions**

### Session 5 Lakeview Room (LI 428)

4:00-4:20pm **Mark Lentz**, Utah Valley University  
*"Access to Interpreters: A Colonial 'derecho' but not a Modern Human Right"*

4:20-4:40pm **Ana Aguilera**, Utah Valley University  
*"Indigenous Languages and Interpreters at Court and Public Services"*

4:40-5:00pm **Oscar Pereira**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
*"The Humanities Professor in an Interconnected Planet"*

5:00-5:15pm **Questions**

# Keynote Speaker

## Dr. Ruth Behar



Ruth Behar was born in Havana, Cuba, and grew up in New York. She was twenty-six when she received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from Princeton University. She is now the Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan. A writer, a cultural anthropologist, and a modern nomad, she has lived and worked in Spain, Mexico, and Cuba. She is known for her humanistic approach to understanding identity, immigration, and the search for home in our global era. Reviewers say her writings “tug at the heart” and reveal an artistry that allows her “to capture and share intimate stories while preserving their tellers’ dignity.”

Ruth’s books include *The Presence of the Past in a Spanish Village*; *Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza’s Story*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year; *The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology That Breaks Your Heart*; *An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba*; and *Traveling Heavy: A Memoir in between Journeys*. She is co-editor of *Women Writing Culture*, editor of *Bridges to Cuba/Puentes a Cuba*, and co-editor of *The Portable Island: Cubans at Home in the World*. Her personal documentary, *Adio Kerida/Goodbye Dear Love: A Cuban Sephardic Journey*, distributed by Women Make Movies, has been shown in festivals around the world.

As much a provocative scholar as a creative writer, Ruth is also known for her essays, poetry, and fiction. Her literary work can be found in *Telling Stories: An Anthology for Writers*; *King David’s Harp: Autobiographical Essays by Jewish Latin American Writers*; *Taking Root: Narratives of Jewish Women in Latin America*; *Burnt Sugar/Caña Quemada: Contemporary Cuban Poetry in English and Spanish*; *The Whole Island: Six Decades of Cuban Poetry, a Bilingual Anthology*; *Telling to Live: Latina Feminist Testimonios*; *Sephardic-American Voices: Two Hundred Years of a Literary Legacy*, and *The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature*. Many of her poems have been published in bilingual Spanish-English editions with Ediciones Vigía, an artisanal press in Matanzas, Cuba.

Her honors include a MacArthur “Genius” Award, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright Senior Fellowship, and a Distinguished Alumna Award from Wesleyan University. She has received an Excellence in Education Award and a D’Arms Faculty Award for Distinguished Graduate Mentoring in the Humanities, both from the University of Michigan. She is also the recipient of a Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award from the Jewish Museum of Florida and was awarded an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.