

San Jose State Department of Philosophy
Statement of Purpose

My primary areas of interest are in Latin American philosophy, philosophy of race, and diversity in philosophy, particularly where these areas may overlap. Also, the intersection of Continental and Analytic Philosophy has captivated me through the duration of my undergraduate education, and I suspect will remain an interest of mine in graduate school.

My primary interest lies in Latin American philosophy, predominantly in the investigation of the history and problems defining this area of study. I am mainly interested in the original approaches to old philosophical problems, and the possible formulations of some problems that have not been considered by European philosophical traditions. Moreover, I find it interesting to investigate the discussions regarding race, ethnicity and social identities in philosophy of liberation, which has its origin in Latin American philosophy. These topics have sparked questions of exploration such as: What counts as Latin American philosophy? If such a thing exists, how should it be analyzed and pursued? Would this area of philosophy constitute a universalist, particular, or authentic approach?

My secondary interest is in philosophy of race. I am acutely attracted to the conflict between scientific and philosophical interpretations of normative racial eliminativism, aimed at discarding the concept of race entirely, and essentialism, which defends the position that racial groups have intrinsically different characteristics; and how these interpretations diverge from phenomenological accounts of racial identity. Certain interrogations that guide my interest are: What is the ontological status of race? What are the implications of discarding the concept of race entirely? On a different constructivist view, what are the consequences of retaining the concept of race in philosophical discourse?

Lastly, investigating what it means to diversify the field of philosophy, is my third research interest. Having formed part of the PIKSI Boston program showed me that minorities are profoundly underrepresented in this discipline. In this area of investigation, linked with Latin American and philosophy of race, I would like to explore: What is the ultimate aim of diversifying philosophy, and why is it important to do so? On what grounds would the efforts made to expand the field cease to continue? Also, are the efforts being made conveying favorable results, and to whom?

In this academic endeavor, I am exceptionally interested in working with Dr. Carlos Alberto Sanchez. Professor Sanchez interests me first and foremost because of his work on Mexican Philosophy, precisely described in *Philosophy and The Post-Immigrant Fear* and ensuing work on *Contingency and Commitment: Mexican Existentialism and the Place of Philosophy*. Also, I am looking forward to his proposed work on *Mexican Philosophy in the 20th Century: Essential Readings*. As an undocumented Mexican scholar, I aim at unpacking the philosophical importance of my lived experience in a non-normative discipline like this one—something that I believe Professor Sanchez may exclusively guide me through.

In addition to working closely with Professor Sanchez, I believe my interest would fit SJSU's overarching commitment to the combined areas of Analytic and Continental Philosophy. Thus, broadening my philosophical basis and putting me in a better position to pursue my primary research goals of entering a Ph.D. program and one day becoming a professor of philosophy. Ultimately, I would be honored to contribute my most critical effort to such a diverse and dynamic learning community.