

# Leonel Alvarez Ceja

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## Education

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**University of California, Irvine**  
2023- Currently Ph.D. Philosophy

**University of California, Los Angeles**  
2019-2022 BA Philosophy

**Saddleback Community College**  
2014- 2019 IGETC Certificate for Transfer

## Research Interests

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Social Ontology, Latinx, Chicanx, Mexican, Moral, Political, and Indigenous Mesoamerican Philosophy.

My research currently focuses on constructing a comprehensive philosophical framework explaining the totality of the Xicanx (Chicanx) identity. That is, my primary aim is to analyze and give an account of the philosophical dimensions surrounding the origins, nature, and fate of Xicanx (Chicanx) identity.

## Employment

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September 2022 - September 2023

**Researcher for Calvin Normore**  
Department of Philosophy,  
University of California Los Angeles

***Mesoamerican Philosophy: On the History of Indigenous Philosophy in the Americas Before 1700***

I compiled a comprehensive list of primary sources from Mesoamerica, including Aztec, Mixtec, and Mayan Codices. I conducted in-depth analyses of their philosophical content, which involved translating the original Nahuatl texts and utilizing my language proficiency in both Nahuatl and Spanish for accurate interpretation.

***Picturing Knowledge in a Historical Perspective***

I conducted research on the use of pictures and depictions from the medieval to the modern period in the field of epistemology. I also actively participated in and facilitated graduate seminars.

June 2022 - September 2022

**Research Assistant to Katrina Elliott**

Department of Philosophy,  
University of California Los Angeles

***Philosophy of Spacetime***

My research focused on the contemporary philosophical issues surrounding spacetime and its connection to Zeno's paradoxes.

## Presentations

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***Chicanx Triangulation: Distinct from Double Consciousness?***

2024 (Upcoming) International Social Ontology Society Conference 2024

2024 UCI Graduate Conference in Philosophy, UCI DoP, & LPS

***La Raza Will Survive: Race-Conscious Multicultural Education and the Survival of the Chicanx Identity***

2024 North American Association for Philosophy and Education International Conference (Accepted)

***Whose Future? An Indigenous and Social Constructionist Critique on the Exclusionary Nature of Longtermism's Future***

2023 American Association of Mexican Philosophers, CUNY John Jay

2023 MAP at UCLA

***On Epistemic-Holes***

2023 UCLA Radio

## Invited Talks

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2024 Comments on Desiree Lim's *Immigration and Social Equality* (2023)

2024 (Upcoming) Comments on Itsue Nakaya Pérez, American Association of Mexican Philosophers

## Teaching Experience

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As Reading Group Organizer and Instructor

2022-2023 Mesoamerican Indigenous/Moral Philosophy Reading Group

Focused on analyzing the connection between existential risk and Indigenous Philosophy.

## Honors and Awards

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2022 Book Prize Recipient, UCLA Philosophy Department

The Book Prize is an annual recognition bestowed upon exceptional students who have made noteworthy contributions to the academic community and demonstrated a strong commitment to their department.

- 2022 Open Door Philosophy Academy at The University of Pittsburgh, Participant  
Advisors: Martin Abreu-Zavaleta (Syracuse University), David Wallace (University of Pittsburgh)  
The Open Door Philosophy Academy at The University of Pittsburgh is a highly selective program that fosters diversity and inclusivity within philosophy by offering students a feel for the graduate school experience while providing intensive training in philosophical inquiry. The program is highly demanding and requires a significant commitment from its participants.
- 2022 Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy- Participant  
The Rutgers Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy is a highly selective program that promotes diversity and inclusivity in philosophy through lectures, discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities.
- 2022 Philosophy in an Inclusive Key (PIKSI) - Rock, Accepted, 2022  
The Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute (PIKSI) is a highly selective program that aims to encourage undergraduate students from underrepresented groups to consider pursuing advanced studies in philosophy. The program provides an intensive introduction to the main areas of philosophical inquiry, as well as discussions of the challenges and opportunities facing members of underrepresented groups in the field.
- 2022 Accepted for a Third Individual Research Seminar (Philos 199)  
Advisor: Katrina Elliott Topic: Philosophy of Space and Time  
Chosen for a third individual research seminar, an opportunity at UCLA reserved for only a handful of students each year.
- 2022 Accepted for a Second Individual Research Seminar (Philos 199)  
Advisor: Calvin Normore Topic: Mesoamerican Indigenous/Moral Philosophy  
Chosen for a second individual research seminar, an opportunity at UCLA reserved for only a handful of students each year.
- 2021 Accepted Individual Research Seminar (Philos 199)  
Advisor: Calvin Normore Topic: Mesoamerican Indigenous/Moral Philosophy  
Chosen for an individual research seminar, an opportunity at UCLA reserved for only a handful of students a year.
- 2019 Distinguished Student in Philosophy  
Nominated by Pete Murray, Chair of Philosophy at *Saddleback College*
- 2019 Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society

## Grants and Fellowships

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- 2023 George Kabango Fellowship, North American Association for Philosophy and Education

- 2023 Diversity Recruitment Fellowship, UCI
- 2022 Bess F Raab Scholarship, UCLA
- 2022 Richard and Gerrie Leeds Study Abroad Scholarship, UCLA
- 2019 Saddleback College Foundation Scholarship, Saddleback Community College

## Professional Service

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**Referee:** *Hypatia, Crítica. Revista Hispanoamericana de Filosofía*

2024 (Upcoming) Graduate Mentor, Rutgers Summer Institute For Diversity In Philosophy

2023-Present Ethics Bowl Coach, UCI

I hold the position of one of the head coaches for UCI's Ethics Bowl team, overseeing our bi-weekly meetings dedicated to discussing Ethics Bowl cases as part of our preparation for regional and national intercollegiate tournaments. Our team consists of talented undergraduates aspiring to pursue careers in law and academia.

2023-Present Graduate Student Mentor, Ph.D. Summer Camp for Women and Marginalized Groups, UCI

I fulfilled the role of Graduate Student Mentor at UCI's PhD Summer Camp for Women and Marginalized Groups. In this capacity, I offered guidance to aspiring graduate students on topics such as graduate admissions, navigating academia, and various aspects of life as a philosophy graduate student.

2023-Present Undergraduate Mentor, MAP, UCLA

In my role as a mentor within the MAP chapter at UCLA, I offered guidance, tutoring, and academic support to several undergraduates. Additionally, I contributed to the recruitment of new philosophy undergraduates, fostering a supportive environment, particularly for BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in philosophy.

2023 Co-Organizer, MAP Colloquium UCLA:

“Against Philosophy, Against Inquiry.” with Jonathan Flowers

I played a role as a co-organizer for the inaugural UCLA MAP Colloquium, overseeing various responsibilities such as coordinating students, recruiting participants for the event, engaging with MAP affiliates, and facilitating discussions.

2022- 2023 Co-Founder/Signatory of the MAP Chapter at UCLA

As a co-founder and officer with UCLA MAP, my responsibilities encompassed organizing meetings, social events, and academic activities. I facilitated these meetings, emphasizing the promotion of diversity, social awareness, and

engagement within the field of philosophy, with a specific focus on empowering BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ people.

- 2022 Associate Editor, UCLA Undergraduate Journal *Meditations*  
In my capacity as an associate editor, I played a role in the peer-review process for our journal, *Meditations*. My responsibilities involved evaluating submitted manuscripts to ascertain their suitability for publication. This entails a comprehensive examination of their quality, rigor, and contribution to the ongoing discourse within philosophy.

## Volunteer Service

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- 2016-Present Bilingual Spanish Immigration Translator for the Undocumented Latino Community in Orange County and Greater Los Angeles Area  
In my role as a translator for the undocumented community, I took steps to ensure that individuals without proper documentation had access to free and accessible translation services for their immigration-related needs. Many of the people I assisted now hold secure residency status, having benefited from these services, thereby saving significant costs associated with expensive translation services.
- 2015-Present Philosophy Instructor and College Mentor for Previously Incarcerated Students  
I regularly offer mentoring services, provide advice on community college and higher education, offer financial aid guidance to their families, and deliver philosophy instruction/tutoring to local students in my community who have previously been incarcerated.
- 2015-Present Undocumented Community Advocate  
As an Undocumented Community Advocate, I assisted several undocumented families by providing guidance and support in accessing governmental services such as WIC, Food Stamps, and Section 8 housing—all conducted in Spanish for non-English speakers. Moreover, at the same time, I facilitate the enrollment of undocumented families in healthcare programs and, for families with children, assist them in navigating the process of enrolling their kids in school (whether that is High school or community college for many DACA students)
- 2018 College Mentor and Speaker for Latino Youth Leadership Academy  
In my capacity as a college mentor, I offered valuable guidance to Hispanic families, particularly high school students, navigating both the college and community college processes. Many of these students, considered at-risk youth, significantly benefited from the representation and advice tailored to their unique circumstances.
- 2015-2018 Mathematics and Philosophy Tutor for Breakthrough San Juan Capistrano  
In my role as a tutor, I regularly met with students spanning from high school to community college, assisting them in overcoming academic challenges. A noteworthy aspect is that many of these students, much like myself, were first-generation college students.

## Professional Affiliations

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American Philosophical Association, 2022-Present

American Association of Mexican Philosophers, 2022-Present

Society for Mexican-American Philosophy 2022-Present

Philosophy of Science Association, 2021- Present

Society for the Metaphysics of Science, 2021-Present

## Philosophy Courses

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### University of California, Irvine

(†Indicates Graduate Seminar)

- Winter 2024 † Think! (Mark Fiocco)  
† Understanding (Mark Fiocco)  
† Enlightenment and Pain (Christophe Litwin)  
† Political Philosophy, Money (Aaron James)
- Fall 2023 † Structures and Stereotypes (Kate Ritchie)  
† Blameless Wrong (Jeff Helmreich)  
† First-Year Seminar (Sven Bernecker)

### University of California, Los Angeles

(†Indicates Graduate Seminar, \*Indicates Audit)

Spring 2023

- †\* Philosophy of Mathematics (Sean Walsh)

Winter 2023

- †\* Topics on Metaphysics: Truth (Calvin Normore)  
†\* Philosophy of Science (Hayley Clatterbuck)  
†\* Philosophy of Psychology (Josh Armstrong & Carlota Pavese)  
†\* Topics on Political Philosophy (Pamela Hieronymi)

Fall 2022

- †\* Topics in Medieval Philosophy (Calvin Normore & Brian Copenhaver)  
†\* Problems in Moral Philosophy (Barbara Herman & Seana Shiffrin)  
†\* Spinoza (John Carreiro)  
†\* Theory of Knowledge (Carlotta Pavese)

Spring 2022

Individual Research Seminar, Philosophy of Spacetime Zeno's Paradox,  
*Advisors:* Katrina Elliott  
†Philosophy of Science (Katrina Elliott)  
Descartes (Josh Kardosh & Calvin Normore)  
Introduction to Philosophy of Science (Katrina Elliott)

Winter 2022

Individual Research Seminar, Mesoamerican Indigenous/Moral Philosophy  
*Advisor:* Calvin Normore  
†Philosophy of Mind Emotions and their Expression (Gabriel Greenberg)  
Metaphysics of Science for the Social World (Katrina Elliott)  
Nietzsche Thus Spoke Zarathustra (Mark Johnson)

Fall 2021

Individual Research Seminar, Mesoamerican Indigenous/Moral Philosophy  
*Advisor:* Calvin Normore  
†\*Philosophical Research in Ethics and Value Theory (Pamela Hieronymi)  
Philosophy of Language and Communication (Josh Armstrong)  
Normative Ethics Love (Andrew Flynn)  
Global Poverty and Aid (Brad Mchose)

Spring 2020

Philosophy of Science Contemporary (Katrina Elliott)  
Modern Philosophy 1650-1800 (John Carreiro)

Winter 2020

Moral Philosophy Emotivism Good and Evil (Janelle DeWitt)  
Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy (Calvin Normore)

Fall 2019

Greek Philosophy (Calvin Normore)  
Philosophy of Mind (Gabriel Greenberg)

### **Saddleback College/Irvine Valley College**

Spring 2019

History of Modern Philosophy (Pete Murray)

Summer 2018

Introduction to Philosophy (Eric Martin)

Fall 2018

Ethics (Basil Smith)

Spring 2015

Logic (Basil Smith)

## Languages

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English, Native Speaker

Spanish, Native Speaker

Nahuatl, Reading working proficiency

## References

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Katrina Elliott, (UCLA) [kelliott@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:kelliott@humnet.ucla.edu)

Gabriel Greenberg, (UCLA) [ggreenberg@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:ggreenberg@humnet.ucla.edu)

Calvin Normore, (UCLA) [normore@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:normore@humnet.ucla.edu)

Pete Murray, Philosophy Department Chair, (Saddleback College) [pmurray@saddleback.edu](mailto:pmurray@saddleback.edu)

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