

Harvard University

2021 Latinx Graduation



PROGRAM

3:30 p.m. **Celebration Starts!**

Welcoming Remarks by MCs

- Jeannette Garcia Coppersmith
- Anyeli Matos

✚ Message from the Harvard Latinx Alumni Alliance

✚ Message from Dr. Sherri Charleston

✚ Message from Dr. Roberto Gonzales

✚ “Wemilere” Performance by Nadia Milad Issa

✚ Student Address by Claribel Aguilar Whyte

✚ Faculty Address by Dr. Marcelo Garzo Montalvo

✚ Degree Ceremony: Recognition of Students Degree and School

Presented by Maritza Hernandez and Anabella Morabito

✚ Musical Performance by Mariachi Veritas de Harvard

✚ Closing Remarks

End of Celebration

Masters of Ceremonies

Jeannette Garcia Coppersmith, Ph.D. Student in Education



Anyeli Matos, Ed.M. Student in Education



Welcome to the Harvard Latinx Alumni Alliance!

The [HLAA](#) seeks to develop a network and sense of community among current and future Harvard alumni who identify as Latina/o/x; to increase Latinx representation throughout the University; and to encourage Latinx alumni involvement in University activities and affairs.



Dr. Sherri Charleston

Sherri Ann Charleston serves as the first Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer (CDIO) at Harvard University. She is one of the nation's leading experts in diversity and higher education and assumed her role in August 2020.



Dr. Charleston is a historian trained in U.S. history with a focus on race, women, gender, citizenship, and the law, and an attorney with a specialization in constitutional and employment law. Most recently, she served as the Assistant Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Chief Affirmative Action Officer at the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison.

She was responsible for evaluating progress toward the goals of a campus-wide strategic diversity plan. During her leadership, she also oversaw the Office of Employee Disability Resources and undergraduate scholarship programs focused on recruiting and retaining students from historically underrepresented communities.

As an academician and administrator, she has expertise in affirmative action, Title IX, and Americans with Disability Act enforcement and compliance. Her focus is on translating diversity and inclusion research into practice for students, staff, researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty of color. She also held faculty affiliations with the Departments of Gender and Women's Studies, teaching courses on women, inequality, and policy analysis at UW-Madison. In 2019, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine named her one of the "Top 35 Women in Higher Education."

Dr. Charleston received a B.A. from Columbia University in history and African American studies, a M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan, and J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

"My approach to the work is very much grounded in my academic interests in history and the law, and in thinking about how we've evolved, and how we haven't evolved, around questions of race and gender, and it comes from a deep passion toward effecting sustainable organizational change, and creating structures that outlast all of us, so that we can actually make progress. I fundamentally believe that many of the challenges that we face in higher education relative to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging have answers rooted in applied research. We must work together in the field to find them."

Dr. Roberto Gonzales

Roberto Gonzales is professor of education at HGSE and director of the newly formed [Immigration Initiative at Harvard](#) (IIH), a university-wide effort aimed at advancing and promoting interdisciplinary scholarship and intellectual exchange around issues of immigration policy and immigrant communities.



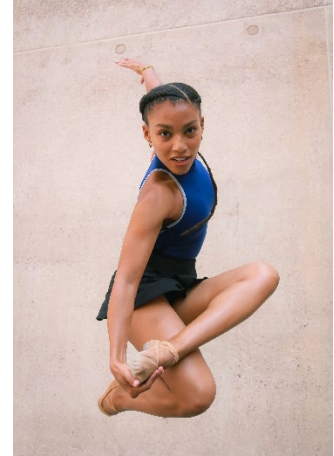
His research centers on contemporary processes of immigration and social inequality, and stems from theoretical interests at the intersection of race and ethnicity, immigration, and policy. Gonzales' research examines the effects of legal contexts on the coming-of-age experiences of vulnerable and hard-to-reach immigrant youth populations. His work has been cited across a broad range of disciplines and has garnered awards from sociology, anthropology, psychology, education, law, and social work.

Since 2002 Gonzales has carried out one of the most comprehensive studies of undocumented immigrants in the United States. His book, [*Lives in Limbo: Undocumented and Coming of Age in America*](#) (University of California Press), is based on an in-depth study that followed 150 undocumented young adults in Los Angeles for twelve years. *Lives in Limbo* has won eight major book awards, including the Society for the Study of Social Problems [C. Wright Mills Award](#), the [American Education Research Association Outstanding Book Award](#), the [Law and Society Association Herbert Jacob Book Award](#), and the [Society for Social Work and Research Book Award](#). It has also been selected by six universities as a Common Read. In addition, several groups around the country have used the book to train staff, including the Madison Police Department, Teach for America, and 23 public schools. Last year, the book was optioned for theatrical production, and plans are underway for the release of a second edition.

In addition, Gonzales' National UnDACAmented Research Project has surveyed nearly 2,700 undocumented young adults and has carried out 500 in-depth interviews on their experiences following President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. He is also teaming up with several colleagues to investigate educator responses to school climate issues stemming from immigration policies.

Nadia Milad Issa

Nadia is a first-year Master of Theological Studies student at Harvard Divinity School, focusing on the African and African American Religious Studies Area of Focus, graduating in 2022. At HDS, they continue their work on Spiritual Reparations in Regla de Ocha-Ifá and other Black Caribbean Diasporic traditions, and continuing research on Black Cuban Womxn Akpwón/Apwanlás.



Nadia spent over three years in Cuba and México pursuing fieldwork and dance study for both research projects that take form as Auto-Ethnographies and dance choreographies expanding Reparation politics and politics of being an Akpwón in Cuba and its diaspora. Nadia is a Company Dancer with Jean Appolon Expressions, a Haitian Contemporary dance company. Nadia has received training from and performed in dance works by Cristal Brown, Frederick Earl Mosley, Vincent Hardy, Princess Mhoun, Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane, Bebe Miller, Bárbara Balbuena, Yeniselt Galata Calvo, Eva Despaigne-Trujillo and Obini Batá, Camille A. Brown and Emilio Hernández González of the company Raíces Profundas to name a few. Nadia's dance choreography has been presented at Boston University, Hampshire College, la Fundación de Alejo Carpentier Havana, Cuba, and Cambridge Carnival Festival 2020.

Nadia is a current Research Associate at The Pluralism Project, contributing their research experiences in Afro-Caribbean spiritual-religious traditions. Nadia continues to work through the lens of Traditions and Religions of Afrikan origin, Survival, Blackness, and the Black Caribbean Diaspora within dance and written works. Nadia recognizes that dance is an embodied tool of ritual and resistance in their research and training. Through dance and ethnographic research, Nadia has been able to navigate and communicate Blackness, queerness, and the sacred.

***Wemilere** honors the ceremonial ritual festives of the Regla de Ocha-Ifá religious practice, transforming space, disrupting the secular-institution with the sacred and ultimately cultivating a casa-templo, a temple-home.*

Claribel Aguilar Whyte

Harvard Graduate School of Education

Master of Education Candidate

Claribel is an education enthusiast. She loves teaching middle school students in addition to learning new things every day. Outside of her professional pursuits, she is a mental health and self-love advocate. You can find her obsessing over Beyonce, practicing yoga, and watching anime. She enjoys spending time with the family and cooking.



Dr. Marcelo Garzo Montalvo

Visiting Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies

Faculty Director, Latinx Studies Working Group



Dr. Marcelo Garzo Montalvo is a musician, dancer, and Ethnic Studies scholar-activist. He is a first-generation Chilean-Canadian/American of Mapuche and Spanish descent. They hold a B.A., M.A. and PhD in Comparative Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley. Their teaching and research focus on comparative and critical approaches to Black, Indigenous, Latinx and Ethnic Studies and Dance and Performance Studies. His other fields of study include critical science and technology studies, decoloniality and social movements for food, healing, environmental and ecological justice.

Degree Ceremony

This year, we are proud to recognize Latinx graduating students from across the university. Together they represent eleven graduate schools and the college.

Reading Student Names:

Maritza Hernandez, Associate Dean, Harvard Graduate School of Education



Anabella Morabito, HGSE Ed.M. Candidate - Higher Education Program



Mariachi Veritas de Harvard

Mariachi Veritas de Harvard, like all Mariachi ensembles, perform traditional Mexican music.



The sounds of trumpets, violins, guitars and the guitarron (bass guitar) combined with singing voices and the culture it represents make up the essence of the Mariachi sound. This is beautiful music that can range from very simple to sophisticated, from loud and lively to somber and soft, from old to new, and from and from regional to universal.

Because Mariachi music has a special place in the hearts of many members of Harvard and the surrounding community, because we would like to contribute to the musical and cultural diversity available in the area, (and because it is simply great music!), Harvard students have come together to perform this music since the 2001 school year. We are the first student Mariachi in the East Coast.

Harvard University

Latinx Class of 2021

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Nadirah Farah	Foley	Doctor of Philosophy
Nana-Korantema	Koranteng	Master of Arts
Lumumba	Seegars	Doctor of Philosophy
Matthew	Smith	Doctor of Philosophy
Kristia	Wantchekon	Doctor of Philosophy

Harvard Extension School

Jacqueline	Anderle	Master of Liberal Arts
Dewan	Andrews	Master of Science
Kanika	Clark	Bachelor of Liberal Arts
Dionne	Clarke	Master of Liberal Arts
Alos	Diallo	Master of Liberal Arts
Onome	Edah	Master of Liberal Arts
Leonard	Edwards	Master of Liberal Arts
Mildred	Fakoya	Master of Liberal Arts
Kiandra	Florence	Master of Liberal Arts
Janelle	Gray	Master of Liberal Arts
Ebony	Griffin	Bachelor of Liberal Arts
Courtney	Henderson	Master of Liberal Arts
Jonathan	Henry	Master of Liberal Arts
Dawn	Hicks	Master of Liberal Arts
Rushton	Johnson	Master of Liberal Arts
Francis	Kiazolu	Master of Liberal Arts
Briahna	Koegel	Bachelor of Liberal Arts
Dathan	Lumpkins	Master of Liberal Arts
Erin	Lopez	Master of Liberal Arts
Dennery	Menelas	Master of Liberal Arts
Tinashe	Mhute	Master of Liberal Arts
Kym	Mosley	Master of Liberal Arts
Tofik	Mussa	Master of Liberal Arts

Geraldine	O'Bannon	Master of Liberal Arts
Funmilola	Ojelade	Master of Liberal Arts
Gabrielle	Patterson	Master of Liberal Arts
Toni-ann	Porter	Master of Liberal Arts
Leon	Prieto	Master of Liberal Arts
Renee	Reynolds	Master of Liberal Arts
Kara-Sue	Sweeney	Master of Liberal Arts
Jordan	Teel	Bachelor of Liberal Arts
Chantal	Thomas	Master of Arts
Tony	Woolard	Master of Liberal Arts

Harvard Medical School

Thelonious	Baldwin	Master in Clinical Service Operations
Ahmed	Elnaiem	Doctor of Medical Sciences
Shika	Kalevor	Master of Bioethics
Nelson	Malone	Doctor of Medical Sciences
Joan Gakii	Masunga	Master of Bioethics
Phoebe	Ozuah	Master of Bioethics
Dany	Thorpe Huerta	Master of Biomedical Informatics

Harvard Divinity School

Lesedi	Graveline	Master of Theological Studies
Dr. Thomas	Maridada	Master of Divinity
Eboni	Nash	Master of Theology
Kayla J.	Smith	Master of Divinity

Harvard Law School

Kiah	Duggins	Doctor of Law
Florene	Frenot	Doctor of Law
Marvellous	Iheukwumere	Doctor of Law
Gladys "Gigi"	Kisela	Doctor of Law
Carla	Luna	Doctor of Law
Armani	Madison	Doctor of Law
Zekariah	McNeal	Doctor of Law
Christine	Nelson	Doctor of Juridical Science
Dennis	Ojogho	Doctor of Law

Daniel	Oyolu	Doctor of Law
James	Ramsey	Doctor of Law
Alexis	Yeboah-Kodie	Doctor of Law

Harvard Business School

Tumi	Akinlawon	Master of Business Administration
Sylvia	Atsaves	Master of Business Administration
Caleb	Bradford	Master of Business Administration
Shani	Carter	Master of Business Administration
Will	Chirwa	Master of Business Administration
Jude	Eziashi	Master of Business Administration
Phillip	Jones	Master of Business Administration
Mark	Koskei	Master of Business Administration
Stephanie	Myles	Master of Business Administration
Erica	Payne	Master of Business Administration
Lailah	Thompson	Master of Business Administration
Tuedy	Wilson	Master of Business Administration

Harvard Graduate School of Design

KOFI	AKAKPO	Master in Architecture
Mohamed	Al-Alfy	Master in Architecture
Oluwatosin	Alliyu	Master in Design Engineering
Isabel	Dunham Strauss	Master in Architecture
Aria	Griffin	Master in Architecture
Cecley	Hill	Master in Urban Planning
Lillian	Mensah	Master in Urban Planning
Laier-Rayshon	Smith	Master in Urban Planning
Sarah	Smyth	Master in Urban Planning
Mary	Taylor	Master in Urban Planning

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Janelle	Cooper	Master of Public Health
Roderick	Fontenette	Master in Health Care Management
Annie	Hoang	Master of Public Health
Jourdyn	Lawrence	Doctor of Philosophy
Adrienne	Lofters	Master of Public Health

Sherine Andreine Leslie	Powerful Turner	Doctor of Public Health Master of Public Health
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Harvard Graduate School of Education

Zaina	Adamu	Master of Education
Tyrell Jourdan	Adeyemi	Master of Education
Claribel	Aguilar Whyte	Master of Education
Marissa	Alberty	Doctor of Education Leadership
Leah	Anyanwu	Master of Education
Tauheedah	Baker-Jones	Doctor of Education Leadership
David	Balan	Master of Education
Mamfatou	Baldeb	Master of Education
Vincent H.	Bish, Jr.	Master of Education
Taylor	Blackston	Master of Education
Brianna	Braswell	Master of Education
Ebony	Breaux	Master of Education
Hassan	Brown	Doctor of Education Leadership
Kevin	Bryant	Doctor of Education Leadership
Dana	Carr-Ford	Master of Arts
Steven A.	Chambers	Doctor of Education Leadership
Talla	Cisse	Master of Education
Alexa	Cole	Master of Education
Emily	Cook	Master of Education
Cierra	Cooper	Master of Education
Arielle	Corbin-Contreras	Master of Education
Chanita	Coulter	Master of Education
Paula	Deroseney	Master of Education
Chloe	Diggs	Master of Education
Donna Lyons	Drakeford	Master of Education
Jen	Fields	Master of Education
C. Samantha	Fletcher	Master of Education
Tyrone	Fleurizard	Master of Education
Jodi-Ann	Francis	Master of Education
Matthew	Ghiden	Master of Education
Constance	Gist	Master of Education
Laura	Golakeh	Master of Education
Ashley	Green	Master of Education
Amanda	Hall	Master of Education

Crystel	Harris	Doctor of Education Leadership
Mich Kaye	Harvey	Master of Arts
Shannon	Hawkins	Master of Education
Lindsey	Holmes	Master of Education
Louisa	Irele	Master of Education
Shanae	Irving	Master of Education
Shahara Camille	Jackson	Doctor of Education Leadership
Ileri-Oluwa	Jaiyeoba	Master of Education
Erica	Jordan-Thomas	Doctor of Education Leadership
Taylor	Luckadue Garcia	Master of Arts
Opelo	Matome	Master of Education
Genet	Mehari	Master of Education
Tiffany	Mellard	Master of Education
Christina	Okezie	Master of Education
Briana	Oliver	Master of Education
ESTHER	OWOLABI	Master of Education
Le'Aysha	Pearson	Master of Education
Joellen	Persad	Master of Education
Tina	Seale	Master of Education
Edward	Smith-Lewis	Master of Education
Sia	Smith-Miyazaki	Master of Education
LaShawn	Springer	Master of Education
Amelia	Thompson	Master of Education
Sarah	Tucker	Doctor of Education Leadership
Alexis	White	Master of Education
Ashley	Whitfield	Master of Education
Jamaal	Williams	Doctor of Education Leadership
Romie	Williams	Master of Education
Bersabell	Yeshitla	Master of Education
Abdul-Razak	Zachariah	Master of Education

Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Teju	Abimbola	Master of Public Administration
Abosede	Alimi	Master of Public Administration
Hillary	Anderson	Master of Public Policy
Linda	Arogundade	Master of Public Administration
Danielle	Callaway Njama	Master of Public Administration
Darold	Cuba	Master of Public Administration

Ikenna	Enwere	Master of Public Administration
Ancito	Etienne	Master of Arts, Master of Public Policy
Alexis	Farmera	Master of Public Policy
Benedict	Harleyson	Master of Public Administration
Shawon	Jackson	Master of Public Policy
jemimah	JATAU	Master of Public Administration
Mini	Kouame	Master of Public Administration in International Development
Zakhona	Mvelase	Master of Public Administration
Tendai	Mvuvu	Master of Public Administration
Leah	Nakaima	Master of Public Policy
Evelyn	Nyarko	Master of Public Administration
D'Seante	Parks	Master of Public Policy
Vandalark	Patricks	Master of Public Administration
Althea	Pieters	Master of Public Administration
Ismael	Toukara	Master of Public Administration
Kamille	Washington	Master of Public Administration

Harvard College

Ilham	Abdalla Tagelsir Ali	Bachelor of Arts
Kevin	Adusei	Bachelor of Arts
Adelson	Aguasvivas Difo	Bachelor of Arts
Rodney	Agyare-May	Bachelor of Arts
Meshaal	Bannerman	Bachelor of Arts
Yoseph	Boku	Bachelor of Arts
Cheyenne	Brooks	Bachelor of Arts
Jadyn	Broomfield-Bryden	Bachelor of Arts
Kaelyn	Brown	Bachelor of Arts
Jamie	Caines	Bachelor of Science
Ruva	Chigwedere	Bachelor of Arts
Ashley	Cooper	Bachelor of Arts
Lorenzo	Daniel, Jr.	Bachelor of Arts
Danielle	Davis	Bachelor of Arts
Elijah	DeVaughn	Bachelor of Arts
Peyton	Dunham	Bachelor of Arts
Jessica	Edwards	Bachelor of Arts
Rachael	Estell	Bachelor of Arts
Danielle	Foltz	Bachelor of Arts

Miela	Foster	Bachelor of Arts
Keturah	Gadson	Bachelor of Arts
Samantha	Gamble	Bachelor of Arts
Destana	Herring	Bachelor of Arts
Aaron	Hodges	Bachelor of Arts
Jasmine	Hyppolite	Bachelor of Arts
Christie	Jackson	Bachelor of Arts
Makeila	Jamison	Bachelor of Arts
Shannon	Jordan	Bachelor of Arts
Aymen	Kabir	Bachelor of Arts
Sahil	Lauji	Bachelor of Arts
Kendall	Laws	Bachelor of Arts
Jasmyne	McCoy	Bachelor of Arts
Mikayla	Morosky	Bachelor of Arts
Juliet	Nwagwu Ume-Ezeoke	Bachelor of Science
Chiamaka	Obilo	Bachelor of Arts
Kevin	Ogonuwe	Bachelor of Arts
Ifeoma	Okoli	Bachelor of Arts
Olivia	Okoli	Bachelor of Arts
Nwanneka	Okolo	Bachelor of Arts
Jude	Okonkwo	Bachelor of Arts
Katherine	Okumu	Bachelor of Arts
Alyssa	Panton	Bachelor of Arts
Devonne	Pitts	Bachelor of Arts
Jerry	Registre	Bachelor of Arts
Ahmad	Saaid	Bachelor of Science
Aba	Sam	Bachelor of Arts
Priscilla	Samey	Bachelor of Arts
Olivia	Scott	Bachelor of Arts
Taylor	Shirtliff-Hinds	Bachelor of Arts
Jaide	Talmadge	Bachelor of Arts
Kate	Vovor	Bachelor of Arts
Gabriel	Wadford	Bachelor of Arts
Jackson	Walker	Bachelor of Arts
Kahlil	Wassell	Bachelor of Science
Ayana	Watkins	Bachelor of Arts
Ifeoma Elise	White-Thorpe	Bachelor of Arts