

Lorraine Leu is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin with a joint appointment in the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies (LLILAS) and the Department of Spanish & Portuguese. For five years she was an Associate Director of LLILAS, working with then-Director Charles Hale to radically diversify the Institute's student body and scholarly community. She continues to further that agenda of inclusion in her research, teaching, and service to the profession, including as Program Co-Chair for LASA 2019 Boston, alongside our current President and fellow Program Chairs.

Leu is a Cultural Studies scholar who has published in a number of different fields, including visual culture studies, urban studies, and critical race studies. Her first book, published by Ashgate Press, focused on the politics of Brazilian popular music during the military dictatorship of 1964-85. The book was selected by *The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory* as one of the most important publications in that field. Her articles and chapters in edited books analyze themes of urban violence and violent urbanization; racialized geographies; race and gender performance in film; urban space and memory; and mega-events and dispossession. She co-edited the anthology *Latin American Cultural Studies: A Reader*, which has just been published by Routledge (2017). Her forthcoming book, *Defiant Geographies: Race, Ethnicity, and Urban Space in 1920s Rio de Janeiro* (University of Pittsburgh Press) focuses on the destruction of a poor, multi-racial community in the center of Rio de Janeiro to make way for the country's first international mega-event in the 1920s. It examines how urbanization functions as a technology of racial oppression, and how racialized subjects defy the implantation of dominant spatial orders. It demonstrates how urbanism complemented other strategies (such as policing and public health policies) in attempts to eliminate black and blackened people from valued areas of the city, and to engage in a collective act of forgetting the country's recent slave past.

Since 2000 Leu has been an editor of the *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*, and in the course of nearly two decades has been closely following debates and setting agendas on a wide range of issues and across many disciplines within Latin Americanism. Her work for the journal facilitates productive exchanges and networks with colleagues around the world.