

Eric Avila

CURRICULUM VITAE

Fall 2007

University of California, Los Angeles
César E. Chávez Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies and Department of History
Bunche Hall 7357
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1559

310.825.9106 office
323.793.0469 home

eavila@ucla.edu

EMPLOYMENT

2004 to present	Associate Professor, Chicana/o Studies and History, UCLA
Spring 2004	Visiting Professor of History and American Studies, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
1998 to present	joint appointment as Assistant Professor, History Department, UCLA
1997 to present	Assistant Professor, Chicana/o Studies, UCLA

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, History, 1997. First field: 20th century US history.
Second field: comparative urban/intellectual history, Europe and America. Outside fields:
ethnic studies/urban geography.

Dissertation: "Reinventing Los Angeles: Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight,
1940-1965," Lawrence W. Levine, Chair, Waldo Martin, Michael Johns.

M.A. University of California, Berkeley, History, 1992. Major field: 20th century US history.

B.A. University of California, Berkeley, History, 1990.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH INTERESTS

History: 20th century, United States, urban, cultural; History of Los Angeles and the U.S. West;
historiography

Ethnic Studies: Chicano Studies, race and racialization, spatial segregation, identity formation

Architecture and urban planning: built environment studies

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Avila, Eric, 2004, *Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight: Fear and Fantasy in Suburban Los Angeles* (University of California Press).

Noriega, Chon, Avila, Eric, Sandoval, Chela, Pérez Torres, and Dávalos, Mary Karen, 2001, *The Chicano Studies Reader: An Anthology of Aztlán, 1970-2000*, (Los Angeles: UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center).

Articles and Book chapters

Avila, Eric, 2007, "East Side Stories: Freeways and Their Portraits in Chicano L.A." *Landscape*, Vol. 26, Issue 1, pp. 83-97.

Avila, Eric, 2004, "Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight: Film Noir, Disneyland and the Cold War (Sub)Urban Imaginary," *Journal of Urban History* vol. 31, Issue 1, pp. 3-22.

Reprint, 2006, *The Best American History Essays 2006*, ed. Joyce Appleby, (Organization of American Historians and Palgrave Macmillan).

Avila, Eric, 2002, "Revisiting the Chavez Ravine: Baseball, Urban Renewal and the Gendered Civic Culture of Postwar Los Angeles," in Alicia Gaspar de Alba, ed. *Velvet Barrios: Popular Culture and Chicana/o Sexualities* (Palgrave Macmillan, December), pp. 125-139.

Avila, Eric, Sandoval, Chela, Pérez Torres, and Dávalos, Mary Karen, 2002, "Roundtable on the State of Chicano Studies," *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies* vol. 27, no. 2 (Fall), pp. 141-152.

Avila, Eric, "Decolonizing the Territory: Introduction," in Noriega, Chon, Avila, Eric, Sandoval, Chela, Pérez Torres, and Dávalos, Mary Karen, 2001, *The Chicano Studies Reader: An Anthology of Aztlán, 1970-2000*, (Los Angeles: UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center), pp. 3-9.

Avila, Eric, 2001, "Dark City: White Flight and the Urban Science Fiction Film in Postwar America," in Daniel Bernardi, ed. *Classic Whiteness: Race and the Hollywood Studio System*, (University of Minnesota Press).

Avila, Eric, 1998, "The Folklore of the Freeway: Space, Identity and Culture in Postwar Los Angeles," in *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Spring), pp. 15-31.

Translation and Reprint, 2002, "El Folclor de la Autopista: Espacio, Cultura y Identidad En Los Angeles de la Posguerra," *AULA 2: Architecture and Urbanism in Las Americas: Culture and Infrastructure* "The Folklore of the Freeway: Space, Culture and Identity in Postwar Los Angeles."

Reprint, 2001, "The Folklore of the Freeway: Space, Identity and Culture in Postwar Los Angeles," in *The Chicano Studies Reader: An Anthology of Aztlán, 1970-2000*, (Los Angeles: UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center), pp. 567-583.

Encyclopedia Entries and Book Reviews

- Avila, Eric, 2007, review, Gillette, Jr., *Camden After the Fall: Decline and Renewal in a Postindustrial City*, *Journal of American History* (forthcoming).
- Avila, Eric, 2007, Review, Whiting, *Pop L.A.: Art and the City in 1960s Los Angeles*, in *Southern California Quarterly*, Vol. 89, No. 1.
- Avila, Eric, 2006, Review, Sides, *L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present* and Flamming, *Bound for Freedom: Black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America*, *Journal of American History*.
- Avila, Eric, in press, 2006, "Mass Culture," *Encyclopedia of American Urban History* (Sage Publications).
- Avila, Eric, 2006, "Whiteness," *Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States* (Oxford University Press).

Forthcoming

- Avila, Eric, in press, "Race and Ethnicity," in *Blackwell Companion to American Cultural History*, ed. Karen Haltunnen. (Blackwell Press).
- Avila, Eric, in press, "Turning Structure Into Culture: Reclaiming the Freeway in San Diego's Chicano Park," *The Cultural Turn in U.S. History: Past, Present and Future*. (University of Chicago Press).
- Avila, Eric, in press, "Race, Region and Representation: Disneyland," in Patricia Penn Hilden and Shari M. Hundorff eds., *Topographies of Race and Gender: Mapping Representations in Popular Culture*.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- University of California, Los Angeles, COR Faculty Research Grant, 2005
- Historical Society of Southern California, Haynes Research Stipend, 2005
- University of California, Los Angeles, Chicano Studies Research Center, Latino Research Project, Research Grant, 2003-2004.
- University of California, Los Angeles, Institute of American Cultures, Faculty Stipend Award, 2001-2002.
- Historical Society of Southern California, Haynes Research Stipend, 1998.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Visiting Fellows Program, Research Institute of Comparative Studies of Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University, 2007-2008.

Donald J. Pfluger Local History Award, Historical Society of Southern California, 2006.

“Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight: Disneyland, Film Noir and the Cold War Suburban Imaginary,” included in Joyce Appleby, ed., *The Best American History Essays 2006* (OAH, Palgrave Macmillan).

Warren Fellowship, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University, 2004-2005.

Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1999-2000.

Dissertation Award for best dissertation, Western History Association, 1996.

National Hispanic Scholarship Award, 1990-1995.

PAPERS DELIVERED

Avila, Eric, 2007, “Racial Politics and Historical Memory in the Age of the Freeway,” Panel Discussion, “Justice, Affect, and Space,” U.C. Santa Barbara, February.

Avila, Eric, 2007, “White Man’s Freeway: Racial Politics and Historical Memory in Postwar St. Paul,” Sahin Seminar Series, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), November.

Avila, Eric, 2007, “Urban History from Above and Below: San Diego’s Chicano Park,” Department of History, Sahin Seminar Series, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), April.

Avila, Eric, 2007, “Mass Culture and the Administered World of 20th Century Los Angeles,” Scripps College, March.

Avila, Eric, 2007, “How I Became a Chicano At Work: A Historian’s Adventure in Chicano Studies,” panel presentation, Organization of American Historians, Minneapolis, MN, April.

Avila, Eric, 2006, “Popular Culture in the Age of the White Flight: Los Angeles After World War II,” Departments of History and American Studies, California State University, Long Beach, October.

Avila, Eric, 2006, “San Diego’s Chicano Park: A Barrio’s Confrontation with Modernity,” Metropolitan History Workshop, University of Michigan, March.

Avila, Eric, 2005, “Reconsidering Race in the Built Environment,” paper presented at “Re conceptualizing the History of the Built Environment in North America,” conference, Harvard University, April.

Avila, Eric, 2005, “East Side Stories: Freeways and Their Portrait in Chicano L.A.,” Department of History, Harvard University, February.

Avila, Eric, 2004, “Four by Los Four and Other Reflections of the Freeway in Chicano L.A.,” Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies, Yale University, November.

- Avila, Eric, 2004, "In the Shadows of the Freeway: Landscape and Consciousness in the Modernist City," paper presented for the Massachusetts Historical Society, Urban History Seminar, October.
- Avila, Eric 2003, "Playing Indian in Postwar Los Angeles: Realities and Representations," paper presented for Annual Conference for the American Studies Association, October.
- Avila, Eric 2003, "Race and the City: Los Angeles and the Geography of White Racial Formation," paper presented for "Latinos in California," University of California, Riverside, September.
- Avila, Eric 2003, "Fulcrums of Change: Intersections of Chicano and African American History and Culture," Chair and Comment, Annual Conference, National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies, April.
- Avila, Eric, 2003, "The Folklore of the Freeway: Identity and Representation in the Los Angeles Barrio," Invited lecture, "Import/Export: Latin American Urbanities," Harvard University Graduate School of Design, March.
- Avila, Eric, 2001, "Conceptualizing the History of Los Angeles," Paper Presented for Annual Conference of Organization of American Historians, Los Angeles, April.
- Avila, Eric, 2000, "The Imperial Work of Freeways," invited paper presented for symposium, "Doing Memory: Performing the Legacies of Imperialism." Department of English, Cornell University, March.
- Avila, Eric, 1999, "Los Angeles Enters the Big League: The Racial Politics of Baseball in Postwar Los Angeles," Distinguished Lecture Series on Race and Ethnicity, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, San Diego, November.
- Avila, Eric, 1999, "Race, Region, and Representation in Postwar America: Disneyland," Unimagined Futures: A Conference on Power, Place and Race in California's Postwar History, 1945-1975. Department of History, Stanford University, May.
- Avila, Eric, 1998, "White City West: Whiteness and the Making of Modern Los Angeles," paper presented at Annual Conference for the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, August.
- Avila, Eric, 1998, "Suburbia and Its Discontents: White Flight and the Urban Science Fiction Film," paper presented at Annual Conference for the Society for Cinema Studies, April.
- Avila, Eric, 1997, "Modernization and Cultural Change: The Case of the L.A. Freeway," paper presented at Special Symposia, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China, November.
- Avila, Eric, 1997, "The Folklore of the Freeway: Space, Identity and Culture in Postwar Los Angeles," paper presented at Annual Conference for the American Studies Association, October.
- Avila, Eric, 1997, "Reinventing Los Angeles: Race, Space and Popular Culture," paper presented at Annual Conference for the Organization of American Historians, San Francisco, April.

TEACHING INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

INTERESTS

History: 20th century United States, California and Los Angeles, urban, cultural.

Chicano Studies: introductory and survey courses, regional identity, race and ethnic relations in space and time.

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate:

History, 201H: "Suburbanization in the United States"

Undergraduate:

Chicano Studies 19, Fiat Lux Seminar, "Now What? After the World Trade Center," Winter 2006, Winter 2007.

Chicano Studies 10A, "Introduction to Latinos in the United States: History and Culture(s)."

Chicano Studies 101, "Theoretical Approaches to Ethnic Studies."

Chicano Studies 181, "City and Community: A History of Chicano Los Angeles, 20th Century."

History M151/Chicano Studies M182, "The Politics and Culture of Whiteness in American History."

History M155, Chicano Studies M183, "History of Los Angeles."

COURSES DEVELOPED

Chicano Studies 180, "City and Community: A History of Chicano Los Angeles, contact-1900," UCLA

Chicano Studies 181, "City and Community: A History of Chicano Los Angeles, the 20th Century," UCLA

History M151/Chicano Studies M182, "The Politics and Culture of Whiteness in US History," UCLA

History M155/Chicano Studies M183, "History of Los Angeles" (substantially revised and updated).

Chicano Studies 19, Fiat Lux Seminar, "Now What? After the World Trade Center."

History 201H, "A History of Suburbanization in the United States"

SERVICE

Departmental

Interim Chair, Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, UCLA, January 2007—July 2007.

Awards Committee, Department of History, UCLA, 2006, 2007.

Search Committee, Department of History, UCLA, 2007.

Vice Chair for Academic Personnel, Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, UCLA, 2006-2007

Vice Chair for Academic Personnel, Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, UCLA, 2005-2006.

Community Relations Committee, member, Chavez Center for Interdisciplinary Instruction in Chicana and Chicano Studies, UCLA. AY 2001-2002, 2002-2003.

Chair, Curriculum and Admissions Committee, Chavez Center for Interdisciplinary Instruction in Chicana and Chicano Studies, UCLA. AY 2000-2001.

Curriculum Committee, member. AY1997-98, AY1998-99,

University

Admissions and Awards, Academic Senate Committee, UCLA, 2006-2007.

Faculty Consultant, California Digital Library, "California Cultures" project, Young Research Library, UCLA, Fall 2000.

Faculty Steering Committee, UCLA/LA, Spring 2000-2002.

Faculty Advisory Committee, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Transgender Studies, 1997- present.

Faculty Review and Selection Committee, UCLA Film and Television Archive, Hearst Newsreel Archive preservation efforts, Spring 1999.

Faculty Advisor, Latino Leadership Opportunity Program, Spring 1999.

Professional Service and Membership

Awards Committee, Organization of American Historians, 2008.

Awards Committee, Society for American City and Regional Planning History, 2007.

Program Committee, American Historical Association, 2006-2007.

Board of Managing Editors, *Journal of Urban History*, (until 2009).

Board of Managing Editors, *American Quarterly*, American Studies Association, (2003-2006).

Editorial Board, *Aztlan: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, (2000-2003).

Commentator, 4th Annual Crossing Borders Ethnic Studies Conference, U.S.C. Panel: "Race, Political Identity, and Power in Postwar California," March 4, 2006.

National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies, since 1999.

American Historical Association, since 1994

American Studies Association, since 1995

Organization of American Historians, since 1996
Western History Association, since 1996

Public Service

Interviewee and Consultant, KCET Documentary Programming, "California At War," 2007.
Consultant, History and Geography Project, April 2007.
Consultant, National Center for History in the Schools, 2007.
5th Art Tour, The Great Wall of Los Angeles, The Buckley School, 2006, 2007.
Consultant, *Chavez Ravine*, Culture Clash, Spring 2003.
Honorable Mention, Playbill, *Chavez Ravine*, Culture Clash, Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles, 2003.
Consultant, *The Great Wall of Los Angeles*, 6th Grade Art Tour, The Buckley School, September 2000, September 2001, October 2002.
L.A. Interchange, The Getty Research Institute (Los Angeles, CA).
Los Angeles History Research Group, The Huntington Library (San Marino, CA).
Participant and Presenter, Research retreat, "Globalization, Culture and Urbanism: The Social Construction of Cities," International and Area Studies, University of California, Berkeley. February, 1997.

Languages

Spanish: proficient
French: intermediate speaking and reading

References

Professor Lizabeth Cohen
Department of History and American Civilization
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138

Professor George Lipsitz
Oakes 331
American Studies Department
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, CA 95064b

Professor Margaret Crawford
Graduate School of Design
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138