Alexander Chaparro Silva. University of Texas Austin

I am an intellectual historian of nineteenth-century Spanish-language print culture in the Americas. My work examines how hemispheric mobilities and printed materials shaped political projects and collective identities in the American hemisphere. I focus on the history of democracy and revolution, print culture's role in the making of ideas of race and citizenship, and the forging of "Latin America" vis-à-vis the US.

My current project analyzes how Spanish American writers, men and women, came to the US during the nineteenth century and offered a sophisticated comparative reflection on democracy and race relations in both Americas. My research delves into the ways these writers published newspapers and books in the US; sponsored intellectual circles and political clubs in cities such as San Francisco, New York, and New Orleans; and established transnational correspondence networks to engage with the political problems common to the American hemisphere. By analyzing the creation of a vibrant continental print culture to rethink global democracy and race relations, my research enriches our analytic palette to think about these historical problems today.

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