

Rubén J. Arjona Mejía

Educational Background

- Ph.D., **Princeton Theological Seminary**, September 2012 - May 2017
Area: Pastoral Theology
Dissertation: “The Minister as Curator of Desire: A Model of Pastoral Accompaniment with Young Mexican Men”
- Master of Theology, **Princeton Theological Seminary**, September 2011 - May 2012
Concentration: Pastoral Care
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies, **Princeton Theological Seminary**, September 2009 - May 2011
Concentration: Pastoral Care
- Bachelor of Theology, **Seminario Teológico Presbiteriano de México**, September 1993 - June 1997
- Teaching Certificate (English as a Foreign Language)
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México 1996

Professional Experience

- Union Presbyterian Seminary**, Richmond, VA July 2020 – present
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care
- Illiff School of Theology**, Denver, CO June 2017 – June 2020
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care
Courses:
- Introduction to Pastoral Theology and Care
 - Erik H. Erikson: Resource for Pastoral Care
 - Ministry and Human Sexuality
 - Why the Church?
 - Caring with the Oppressed *Latinamente*
 - Practical Theology
 - Pastoral Care of Couples and Families
- Illiff School of Theology**, Denver, CO July 2016 - May 2017

Instructor in Pastoral Theology and Care

Princeton Theological Seminary , Princeton, NJ	February 2013 - May 2015
Teaching Assistant:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexuality and the Christian Body, Robert C. Dykstra• Pastoral Care in Congregation and Context, Sonia Waters• Parish Leadership and the Practice of Ministry, M. Craig Barnes• Pastoral Care of Men, Robert C. Dykstra• Pastor as Person, Robert C. Dykstra	
Comunidad Teológica de México , Mexico City	2005 - 2007
Instructor:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homiletics• Theological English	
Seminario Teológico Presbiteriano de México , Mexico City	2001 - 2009
Instructor:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calvinist Thought• Reformed Confessions• Homiletics• New Testament Survey• History of Presbyterianism in Mexico	
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México , Mexico City	1996 - 1999
Instructor:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English levels 3, 5 and 7	
Basilea Center for Support and Research , Mexico City	1999 - Present
Assistant Director	
National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, Office of the General Assembly	2009
Board of Education, Executive Secretary	
“Puerta de Salvación” Presbyterian Church , Mexico City	2008 - 2009
Associate Pastor	
“Ammi Shadday” Presbyterian Church , Mexico City	1999 - 2006
Pastor	
Berea Presbytery , Mexico City	2004 - 2006
Moderator	
First Synod of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico	2003 - 2006

Board of Education, Director

“El Divino Redentor” Presbyterian Church, Mexico City
Intern

1995 - 1998

Awards and Fellowships

- Princeton Doctoral Fellowship, 2012-2016
- Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium/Luce Fellowship, 2015-2016, 2016-2017
- Hispanic Theological Initiative Fellowship 2014-2017
- Trustees Fellowship, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2009-2016
- Presidential Scholarship, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2009-2012
- Henry James Sr. Award, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2012
- Robert P. Goodlin Award, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2011
- Goizueta Foundation Award for Academic Merit and Ministerial Excellence, Hispanic Summer Program, Princeton, NJ, 2010
- Valedictorian, Presbyterian Pan American School, 1992

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“The Criminalization of Mexicans in Contemporary ‘American’ Politics: A Pastoral Theological Response.” *Journal of Pastoral Theology*. Published online (February 2, 2020). <https://doi.org/10.1080/10649867.2020.1719685>

“George F. Handel’s ‘How Beautiful Are the Feet’ as Transformational Object: An Autobiographical Account.” *Pastoral Psychology*. Published online (January 24, 2020). <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11089-020-00894-6>

“Erik H. Erikson’s *Young Man Luther*: A Classic Revisited, Again.” *Pastoral Psychology*. Published online (June 22, 2019). <https://doi-org.iliff.idm.oclc.org/10.1007/s11089-019-00884-3>

“You Are My Friends: Pastoral Care with Young Mexican Men.” *Pastoral Psychology*, 67, no. 6 (December 2018): 589-610.

John Calvin on the Lord’s Supper: Food, Rest, and Healing for Shivering Souls,” *Pastoral Psychology*, 66, no. 2 (April 2017): 177-190.

“The Librarian as an Image of Pastoral Care,” *Pastoral Psychology*, 65, no. 6 (December 2016): 743-757.

“William James and the Varieties of Religious and Drinking Experience: The Case of Pablo Ávila,” *Pastoral Psychology*, 64, no. 5 (October 2015): 553-566.

“Hoagies and Tacos: Food and Men’s Unquenchable Hunger,” *Pastoral Psychology*, 64, no. 3 (June 2015): 297-310.

“A Time to Sing and a Time to Dance: Activating Hope and Wisdom,” *Pastoral Psychology*, 62, no. 6 (December 2013): 781-790.

Book Chapters

“A Spiritually Integrative Digital Pedagogy” (co-authored with Carrie Doehring). In *Teaching Sexuality and Religion in Higher Education: Embodied Learning, Trauma Sensitive Pedagogy, and Perspective Transformation*, edited by Darryl W. Stephens and Kate Ott. New York: Routledge, 2020.

“Calvino, el placer y ‘la buena vida’.” In *Calvino y la teología reformada en América Latina: Un panorama*, edited by German Zijlstra, et al., pp. 169-171. Barranquilla, Colombia: AIPRAL/CUR, 2010.

“El desafío del discernimiento: La fe ante la coyuntura social y política en México.” In *Vida plena para toda la creación: Iglesia, globalización liberal y justicia económica*, edited by René Krüger, et al., pp. 157-161. Buenos Aires: AIPRAL/ISEDET, 2006.

Other Publications

“Somos remeros: Heinrich Bullinger y el ministerio pastoral.” *El Faro*, Septiembre – Octubre 2019.

Carismatismo y espiritualidad reformada. (Editor). Mexico City, MX: El Faro, 2009.

Volver a la mesa: siete estudios en torno a la Cena del Señor. México: Primer Sínodo de la Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de México, 2006.

De la sumisión a la revolución: La influencia de Calvino en el desarrollo del protestantismo francés. Mexico City, MX: Centro Basilea de Investigación y Apoyo, 2001.

“Breaking the Chains of Injustice: Mexico,” *Reformed World*, 46, no. 2 (June 1996): 78-85.

Papers Presented at Professional Meetings

“Spiritually Integrative Digital Pedagogy.” Paper co-presented with Carrie Doehring to the Group for New Directions in Pastoral Theology Conference. Lake Tahoe, Nevada, September 2019.

“The Criminalization of Mexicans in Contemporary ‘American’ Politics: A Pastoral Theological Response.” Plenary address delivered to the Society for Pastoral Theology. Denver, June 13, 2019.

“George F. Handel’s ‘How Beautiful Are the Feet’ as Transformational Object: An Autobiographical Account.” Paper presented to the Group for New Directions in Pastoral Theology Conference. Princeton Theological Seminary, October 2018.

“Erik H. Erikson’s *Young Man Luther: A Classic Revisited, Again.*” Paper presented to the Group on Pastoral Theology with Men and Boys. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Historical Society, May 23 - 25, 2018.

“You Are My Friends: Pastoral Care with Young Mexican Men.” Paper presented to the Group on Pastoral Theology with Men and Boys. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Historical Society, May 31 - June 2, 2017.

“Being a Mexican Man: Stereotypes and Perspectives.” Paper presented to the Group on Pastoral Theology with Men and Boys. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Historical Society, June 1- 3, 2016.

“The Librarian as Image of Pastoral Care.” Paper presented to the Group for New Directions in Pastoral Theology Conference. Princeton Theological Seminary, October 2015.

“William James and the Varieties of Religious and Drinking Experience: The Case of Pablo Ávila.” Paper presented to the Group for New Directions in Pastoral Theology Conference. Princeton Theological Seminary, October 2014.

“Volver a la mesa: Contra la marginación, privatización y reducción de la Cena del Señor.” Paper presented at the Reformed Theology Colloquium, Seminario Teológico Presbiteriano de México. Mexico City, November 2003.

Other Recent Presentations

“How to Manage Money: Insights from a Shrewd Manager.” A sermon preached at Bethel United Presbyterian Church, Denver, Colorado, September 22, 2019.

“El mensaje de los tres ángeles: llamado a la esperanza y la perseverancia.” A sermon preached at “El Divino Salvador” Presbyterian Congregation, Aurora, Colorado, May 12, 2019.

“Beautiful Feet: From Aesthetics to the Embodiment of Justice.” A sermon preached at the Iliff School of Theology, Renewal Conference, February 6, 2018.

“Bread: Symbol and Embodiment of Resistance.” A sermon preached at the Iliff School of Theology, May 17, 2017.

“Mirando a la distancia: la vocación protectora de una hermana.” A sermon preached at the “Príncipe de Paz” Presbyterian Church, Mexico City, November 7, 2015.

“La singularidad del ser, clave para el amor.” A sermon preached at the “Puerta de Salvación” Presbyterian Church, Mexico City, October 31, 2015.

“Non-Violent Communication.” A workshop facilitated at “El Shaddai” Presbyterian Church, Mexico City, May 2015.

“Una iglesia con sentido de misión en un mundo conflictivo.” A sermon preached at the “Ammi Shadday” Presbyterian Church, Mexico City, April 2015.

“Resources for Pastoral Counseling in the Parish Context.” Workshops for the Ministerial Certificate Program, Presbiterio del Estado de México, Toluca, México, August 3 & 10, 2013.

“Biblia, tiempo y eternidad.” A sermon preached at the “Puerta de Salvación” Presbyterian Church, Mexico City, August 2012.

“Finding Christ in the Stranger.” A sermon preached at Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church, Ringoes, NJ, May 2011.

“A Panorama of Christianity in Mexico.” A presentation given at Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ, October 2010.

Institutional Service

Denver Presbytery, Cultivation and Innovation Task Force, March 2019 – Present

Iliff School of Theology, Faculty Personnel Committee, September 2018 – Present

Iliff School of Theology, Curriculum Committee, September 2016 – May 2018

Iliff School of Theology, Search Committee, September 2017 – February 2018

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW), Consultations on Bilingual Spanish-English Congregational Singing, 2014-2016.

Princeton Theological Seminary, International Student Orientation Program Coordinator, August 2015.

Seminary Council on Institutional Diversity, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2014.

Mec por la Equidad México, World Student Christian Federation, Coordinator, 2003.

Kleberg County Prison Ministry, Presbyterian Pan American School, Kingsville, TX, 1989-1990.

Professional Development

Suicide Prevention Training, University of Denver, October 21, 2019.

Pre-Tenure Faculty and Ph.D. Candidate Seminar, Center for the Study of Latino Christianity and Religion, Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX, March 9, 2018.

ATS Roundtable Seminar for Newly Appointed Faculty, Chicago, IL, October 6-8, 2017.

Teaching Workshop for HTI, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Crawfordsville, IN, March 4-6, 2016.

Hispanic Theological Initiative Summer Workshop, July 2015.

Hispanic Theological Initiative Summer Workshop, July 2014.

Foundations for Teaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2012 - 2014.

Languages

Spanish, English

French, Portuguese (reading knowledge)