



## Celebrating Hispanic (LatinX) Heritage Month 2020

### A Reflection from Nicole Babcock, Interim Director, Title IX Coordinator for Faculty and Staff

September 15th marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, a month dedicated to celebrating Hispanic/Latinx\* culture as well as the achievements and contributions of Latinx community members to our society. It also marks the independence of five Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Later in the month, Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence.

Hispanic Heritage Month is, of course, an opportunity to express gratitude to those members of the Latinx community who have made a significant positive impact in our lives. I'm thinking of a range of individuals, from Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latinx Supreme Court Justice, who contributes to legal decisions that influence our way of life, to Celia Cruz, who has made parties more fun since the 1950s and reminds us that "la vida es un carnaval; solo hay momentos malos y todo pasa [life is a celebration; there are only bad moments and everything passes]."

For me, as someone who identifies as Latina, Hispanic Heritage Month is also an opportunity to reconnect with my roots, recognizing the sacrifices made by those who came before me. My grandmother and grandfather on my mother's side came to the United States from Cuba in the early 1950s. My grandmother worked as a seamstress (she made all of my Halloween costumes until I begged her to stop), and my grandfather was a carpenter. Neither my grandmother nor my grandfather spoke English and neither was educated in the traditional sense (education can be obtained in many ways – life experience perhaps being one of the most impactful forms of education); however, they worked hard in physically demanding jobs to ensure their children had access to what they saw as the key to success in the United States, an education. I'm grateful for that because the opportunities I've had wouldn't exist without their vision and forethought.

I also believe that Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to reflect on the Latinx population as a whole in the United States. Nearly 20% of the population in the U.S. identifies as Latinx, but within that population, there is a wealth of diversity when it comes to race, color, religion, national origin, household makeup, etc. I'm certain my experience as a Latinx woman growing up in a bicultural, bilingual, multi-generational household, with a father who only spoke English and a grandmother (my mother's mother) who only spoke Spanish, is very different from the experience of many other Latinx individuals. (And if you're wondering, no, my grandmother and my father were never able to communicate verbally, even though they lived together for over 20 years; some with strained relationships with their in-laws might see that as a blessing).

My take on life and the contributions I'm able to make to my workplace, friendships and relationships, generally, are based on that unique upbringing and the perspective it gave me. It's important, as we reflect on this month, to remember the diversity in the Latinx community and the immense benefits that can be derived from that diversity in our educational settings, our professional settings and in our personal lives.

On behalf of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, please join me in celebrating all that Latinx culture has to offer and in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month!

\*Latinx is a gender-neutral term used to describe those who identify as Latin American or are of Latin American descent. The term Hispanic is often used to describe someone who is a descendant of a Spanish-speaking country. For example, a person from Brazil who speaks Portuguese may identify as Latinx but not as Hispanic.

### Programming & Resources



EMORY UNIVERSITY

#### Geographies of Latinx Indigeneity

The James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference  
September 28, 2020  
12:00 - 1:00 pm

The James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference  
Emory College of Arts and Sciences

[Register Here](#)



EMORY OXFORD COLLEGE

#### Lecture: Names and Meanings: Uses of Latin Tags in Academia

Oxford Studies  
September 30, 2020  
7:30 PM

[Register Here](#)



#### LatinX Music & Activism - A Faculty Panel

Office of RACE and Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
October 6th, 2020

[Register Here](#)



EMORY UNIVERSITY Libraries

#### Emory Libraries celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month: Digital Primary Sources.

[More Information](#)



The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society.

[More Information](#)



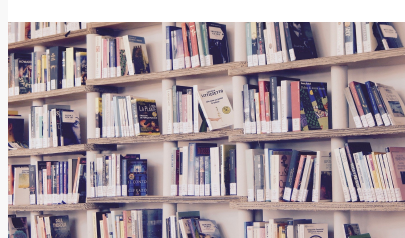
Join NPR's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

[More Information](#)



Learn more about the diverse cultures and experiences of Hispanic and Latinx Americans. Explore a special collection of stories that highlight their voices and contributions.

[More Information](#)



#### Book Lists

- [10 Books To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- [Books to Read for Latinx Heritage Month](#)
- [The Founders of The Latinx Read-A-Thon Share Their Favorite Books for Hispanic Heritage Month](#)
- [27 Books to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage](#)