

UCLA DEPARTMENT OF  
**SPANISH & PORTUGUESE**

PRESENTS:

*~Faculty Speaker Series~*

Wednesday, April 21st at 3pm - via Zoom

Join us **Week 4** for our first Faculty Speaker Event of the quarter!



Our first speaker this quarter is:  
**Professor Patricia Arroyo Calderón.**  
See below a brief bio.

When I embarked on my first trip to Guatemala, I would have never imagined that —many years later— I would be teaching courses on Latin American and Central American cultures to undergraduate and graduate students in a faraway university (UCLA!).

Originally from Madrid (Spain), I am the daughter of a working-class couple that, despite not having had the chance of accessing secondary nor higher education, always treasured the power of books to open windows to the worlds of others

and to “take you to places” without leaving your room. Trying to make the best out of the increased opportunities that my generation had to access higher education, I completed a BA in History, three MAs (Contemporary History, Translation Studies, and Latin American Studies), and I was lucky enough to land a summer job working in the archives of Guatemala under the guidance of local professors. This experience would change my life forever; so much so, that I completed a PhD in Latin American Literatures and Cultures (OSU), where I could merge my long-time passion for history and literature with my newly found fascination with the Central American isthmus.

I am a fervent believer in the right of everyone to expand their horizons through the emotional and intellectual journey that a good college education can provide. It did certainly expand mine. Now, I feel more than grateful to be able to give back to others, to continue learning from colleagues, students, and community members, and to accompany young Bruins in their own journeys towards a better and more equitable world.