

2024 Castañeda-Jennings Lecturer

DR. XOCHITL ALVIZO

June 4, 2024
7:00PM



**CASTAÑEDA
JENNINGS**

Lecture & Award

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We honor and embrace the stories, histories, and cultures of the Native and Indigenous people, who were unjustly removed from their ancestral homelands.

Our seminary building sits on traditional territories of the Peoria and Kickapoo Nations as well as the unceded homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi.

We acknowledge the very real horrors of colonizer behavior—including land dispossession, cultural oppression and religious persecution, child removal, boarding schools, and slavery.

We recognize that verbally acknowledging the stories and histories of Indigenous peoples is only a first step. On our learning journey of justice, we seek ways to move forward from this place to cultivate a more inclusive, diverse, and equitable society.

LGBTQ+ COMMITMENTS

Chicago Theological Seminary, a graduate school affiliated with the United Church of Christ, serves God, diverse religious and spiritual communities, and the larger world by educating persons theologically and cultivating the intellectual, spiritual, and ethical capacities of lay and ordained religious leaders, scholars, activists, and others who contribute to the increase of justice and mercy.

Guided by the Spirit of the Divine, inspired by ancient and contemporary prophets, sages, and sacred texts, informed by numerous religious and philosophical traditions, and nurtured by faith and culture, we strive to create a sacred learning community that educates for public ministry, based upon commitments to justice, including the following:

CTS is committed, in a world governed by the presumption of heterosexual expression, to challenge homophobia, to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other individuals within the spectrum of human sex and sexuality, and to develop leadership to encourage faith communities to become more open and affirming.

2024 CASTAÑEDA-JENNINGS LECTURE

Introduction.....Dr. W. Scott Haldeman
Associate Professor of Worship

Mr. Randy Tyson
2023 Castañeda-Jennings Scholar

Welcome.....Dr. Brad R. Braxton
President and Professor of Public Worship

Securing the Castañeda Legacy.....Mr. Chad R. Schwickerath
Vice President for Advancement & Philanthropic Giving

Centering Word.....Dr. W. Scott Haldeman

Castañeda-Jennings Award Presentation.....Dr. Emily Vogt
Academic Dean; Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Ethnography

Ms. Debra Behrendt
2024 Castañeda-Jennings Scholar

Mx. Benjamin Coakley
2024 Castañeda-Jennings Scholar

Introduction of Lecturer.....Dr. José Francisco Morales Torres
Associate Professor of Comparative Theology & Philosophy

KEYNOTE LECTURE

DR. XOCHITL ALVIZO

“CHURCH: A QUEER, FEMINIST, ANTIRACIST, DECOLONIAL
LISTENING TO THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK”

Conversation and Q&A.....moderated by Dr. Ken Stone
Distinguished Service Professor; Professor of Bible, Culture, and Hermeneutics

Closing Remarks.....Dr. Brad R. Braxton

SPEAKER: XOCHITL ALVIZO

Xochitl Alvizo is Associate Professor of Religious Studies in the area of Women and Religion and the Philosophy of Sex, Gender, Sexuality. She has a PhD in Practical Theology from Boston University. She dedicates her work to bringing a feminist and queer focus to theology and to the study of religion and does research in congregational studies, ecclesiology, and the emerging church. She is co-founder of Feminism and Religion, an online project of feminist voices from around the world in dialogue about feminism in religion at the intersection of scholarship, activism, and community. She is co-editor of *Women Religion Revolution* (FSR Books, 2017) with Gina Messina, and *The Emerging Church, Millennials, and Religion: Volume 2* (Cascade Books, 2022) with Terry Shoemaker and Rachel C. Schneider. She lives in Los Angeles, CA where she was also born and raised.



ABOUT THE LECTURE

The Castañeda-Jennings Lecture & Award was established in 1994 in loving memory of Gilberto Castañeda, the “adopted” son of Dr. Theodore Jennings and Rev. Dr. Ronna Case. Gilberto first met Rev. Case in California, where she was developing mission congregations among undocumented workers from Mexico. Gilberto “found the love of God so compelling that he not only became a member but also a leader in the new congregations of young people” that were being established by Rev. Case. In 1994, at the age of 29, before he could fulfill his dream to enter seminary, he died of complications from AIDS.

A gifted theologian and educator, the late Professor Emeritus Theodore Jennings taught for more than 30 years at Chicago Theological Seminary. He was an inspiring and passionate teacher who gave witness to God’s justice and mercy for generations of students. Professor Jennings’s theology was one of radical hospitality and welcoming of others, especially those at society’s margins.



1407 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
773.896.2400 ctschicago.edu