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Curtis Acosta, Ph.D.

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

- *Ph.D., Language, Reading, and Culture, 2009-2015*

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

- *M.A., Language Reading and Culture, 2006-2008*

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

- *Post-Baccalaureate English Teaching Certification, 1994-1995*

Willamette University, Salem, OR

- *B.A., Humanities, 1990-1994*

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2016-Present Assistant Professor, Language and Culture in Education, University of Arizona South, Sierra Vista, AZ

2014-2015 Adjunct Instructor, Secondary Teacher Education, University of Arizona South, Sierra Vista, AZ

2012-2013 Adjunct Instructor, Chicano Literature and Community Research, Prescott College, Tucson, AZ

2012-2013 English Teacher, Tucson High Magnet School, Tucson, AZ

2003-2012 Latina/o Literature Teacher, Tucson High Magnet School, Tucson, AZ

2001-2004 English Teacher, Tucson High Magnet School, Tucson, AZ

1999-2001 Advanced Placement American Literature Teacher, University High School, Tucson, AZ

1995-1999 English Teacher, Tucson High Magnet School, Tucson, AZ

PUBLICATIONS

Acosta, C. (2019). Tipu: Connections, love, and liberation. In R. Tolteka Cuauhtin, M. Zavala, C. Sletter, & W. Au (Eds.), *Rethinking Ethnic Studies*. Milwaukee, WI: Rethinking Schools, Ltd.

Acosta, C., Castro, A., & Mejia, M. (2016). Young women in the movimiento: Chican@ Studies after the ban. In A. Butler-Wall, K. Cosler, R. Harper, J. Sapp, J. Sokolower, & M. Bollow Tempel (Eds.), *Rethinking Sexism, Gender, and Sexuality*. Milwaukee, WI: Rethinking Schools, Ltd.

Acosta, C. (2015). The impact of humanizing pedagogies upon the identities, civic

engagement and political activism of Chican@ youth (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy2.library.arizona.edu/pqdtglobal/docview/1689439920/3FFF3FF6AA35435BPQ/1?accountid=8360>

- Acosta, C. (2014). Dangerous minds in Tucson: The banning of Mexican American Studies and critical thinking in Arizona. *The Journal of Educational Controversy*, 7(2).
- Acosta, C. (2014). Huitzilopochtli: The will and resiliency of Tucson youth to keep Mexican American Studies alive. *Multicultural Perspectives*, 15(5).
- Acosta, C. (2013). Pedagogies of resiliency and hope in response to the criminalization of Latin@ students. *Journal of Language & Literacy Education* [Online], 9(2), 63-71.
- Acosta, Curtis (2012). Tú eres mi otro yo/You are my other self. In N. Schniedewind & M. Sapon-Shein (Eds.), *Educational courage: Resisting the ambush on Public Education*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.
- Acosta, C. & Mir, A. (2012). Empowering young people to be critical thinkers: The Mexican American Studies Program in Tucson. *Voices in Urban Education*. 34 (Summer).
- Acosta, C. (2007). Developing critical consciousness: Resistance literature in a Chicano literature class. *The English Journal*. 97(2), p. 36-42.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Respected & Reflected: Culturally Responsive Education for the Whole Learner,” *Grantmakers in Education 2018 Annual Conference*. San Diego, CA, October 2018.
- “Victory in Arizona: Defending the Rights and Education of Chicax/Latinx Youth in the Era of Hate and Anti-Intellectualism,” *George Fox University Keynote Address*. Newburg, OR, October 2018.
- “The Academic power of Humanizing Education & Ethnic Studies in an Era of Dehumanization & Anti-Intellectualism,” *California Latino School Board Association Keynote Address*. Del Mar, CA, October 2018.
- “The Politics of Revolutionary and Humanizing Praxis: The Story of Liberation, Victory, and Regression in Tucson,” *American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting*. New York, NY, April 2018.
- “Radical Dreams and Transformative Praxis: Celebrating 50 Years of Paulo Freire’s *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*,” *American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting*. New York, NY, April 2018.
- “Victory in Arizona: Defending the Rights and Education of Chicax/Latinx Youth in the Era of Trump and Anti-Intellectualism,” *Vanderbilt University Keynote Address*. Nashville, TN, December 2017.
- “The United States of Arizona: Striving for Liberation in the Era of Trump and Anti-Intellectualism,” *Whole Language Umbrella of the National Council of Teachers of English Summer Institute Keynote Address*. Tucson, AZ, July 2017.

- “Cultures and Communities as the Foundation for Academic Excellence,” *Arizona State University iTeach ELLs STEM Camp 2017 Keynote Address*. Scottsdale, AZ, June 2017.
- “The United States of Arizona: Striving for Liberation in the Era of Trump and Anti-Intellectualism,” *Harvard Graduate School of Education Keynote Address*. Cambridge, MA, March 2017.
- “Huitzilopochtli: Our Will to Act for Humanizing Education,” *University of Arizona Teaching, Learning, and Sociocultural Studies Colloquy Keynote Address*. Tucson, AZ, February 2016.
- “The Will to Act,” *Progressive Education Network National Conference*. Brooklyn, NY, October 2015.
- “Toiling the Soil Before We Plant the Seeds in Education,” *Southern Connecticut State University MRRC Keynote Address*. New Haven, CT, September 2015.
- “Cultures and Communities as the Foundation for Academic Excellence,” *Edmonds School District Social Justice Speaker Series*. Edmonds, WA, August 2015.
- “Cultures and Communities as the Foundation for Academic Excellence,” *Edmonds School District Global Learning Conference*. Montebello, CA, May 2015.
- “Linking Our Struggles: Visioning a Different Future.” *American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting Presidential Session*. Chicago, Illinois, April 2015.
- “The Impact of Culturally Responsive Education on Student Agency and Civic Engagement,” *American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, CA, April 2013.
- “Teaching in Tucson’s Mexican American Studies Program: Theory and Practice Under Siege,” *American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting*. San Francisco, CA, April 2013.
- “Praxis of Struggle and Hope: An Update From Tucson,” *National Association of Ethnic Studies 41st Annual Conference*. Fort Collins, CO, April 2013.
- “Si Se Puede: Culturally Responsive Pedagogy in Action.” *Teach for America Teacher Leader Development Summit*, Memphis, TN, January 2013.
- “After Precious Knowledge: Mexican-American Studies and the Struggle for Educational Justice in Arizona,” *Keynote Address, Roger Williams 2nd Annual Urban Education Conference*. Providence, RI, October 2012.
- “Banned Histories: Mexican-American Studies and the Struggle for Educational Justice in Arizona.” Invited Lecturer, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, September 2012.
- “The High Price of Teaching Latino Students about their Heritage: Curricular Success and Political Fallout with the Banning of Mexican-American Studies in Arizona.” Invited Lecturer, University of Connecticut. Storrs, Connecticut, September 2012.
- “Critical Race Theory and Pedagogy.” Invited Lecturer, Connecticut College. New London, Connecticut, September 2012.
- “Rewarding writers: Liberating and empowering Chican@ youth through prose.” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Atlanta, Georgia, April

- 2011.
- “Tierra Birthmarks: Producing counter narratives and social justice teatro in a high school Chicana/o literature classroom through ethnographic research.” *6th International Conference on Teacher Education and Social Justice at the University of Illinois-Chicago*. Chicago, Illinois, December 2009.
- “Political and civic engagement in a Raza Studies classroom.” *National Reading Conference*. Albuquerque, NM, December, 2009.
- “Counter narratives and critical literacy: Developing critical consciousness in a Chicana/o literature and history classroom.” *Arizona Reading Association*. Glendale, AZ, 2009.
- Developing critical consciousness through social justice and resistance literature. *5th International Conference on Teacher Education and Social Justice at the University of Illinois-Chicago*. Chicago, Illinois, July, 2008.
- Acosta, Curtis (2007). Developing critical consciousness: Resistance literature in a Chicano literature class. *The English Journal*. 97(2), p. 36-42.
- “The Mexican American/Raza Studies Institute: Helping teachers become critically compassionate pedagogues.” *American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting*. Chicago, Illinois, April 2007.

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Willamette University Alumni Board of Directors Member, 2015-present
- Education for Liberation Network Advisory Board, 2011-present
- Free Minds, Free People National Conference Planning Committee, 2009-present
- American Educational Research Association, 2013-2014; 2017-present
- National Association for Ethnic Studies, 2013-2014
- National Association of Multicultural Education, 2013-2014

AWARDS

- Willamette University Distinguished Alumni Award 2014
- American Educational Research Association Critical Educators for Social Justice Community Advocacy Award 2013
- University of Arizona/Circle K Teacher of the Year Finalist 2012
- University of Arizona College of Education Erasmus Circle Scholar 2011
- University of Arizona Goodman “In Defense of Good Teaching” Award 2011
- Hispanic Sports and Academic Enrichment Program Teacher of the Year 2011
- Tucson High Magnet School Male Faculty Member of the Year 2010

Martin Luther King Jr. Classic Teacher Award 2009

National Scholars Honors Society, member since 2007

The Flinn Foundation Distinguished Educator Award 2002