

Curriculum Vitae

REBECCA MARIA TORRES

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EDUCATION:

- Ph.D.** (December, 2000) Geography, University of California, Davis, California.
Areas of Concentration: Rural Development, Tourism, Agricultural Development and Latin America
Dissertation: Linkages Between Tourism and Agriculture in Quintana Roo, Mexico.
- M.S.** (1994) International Agricultural Development, University of California, Davis, California
Areas of Concentration: Gender & Development and Community Development
Thesis: Ferreñafe: A Cross-Sectional Study of a Northern Peruvian Coastal Farming Community.
- TESOL Certificate** (1989) Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- B.A.** (1987) History, Spanish and Latin American Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- Junior Year Abroad** (1985-86) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Program in Seville, Spain

AREAS OF INTEREST:

Rural Development (International and Domestic); Tourism; Agricultural Systems & Change; Migration; Transnationalism; U.S. Latino Communities; Gender & Development; Latin America

CURRENT POSTION:

East Carolina University (2001 - Present) Assistant Professor, Department of Geography; Co-Director, ECU Rural Development Initiative; Coordinator, Economic Development Graduate Certificate; Coordinator, Los Puentes Research Team. Greenville, NC.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Rural Prosperity Institute** (2002 - Present) Co-Founder & Member of Board of Directors
Activities: The mission of the Rural Prosperity Institute (RPI) (US 501(c)(3)) is to improve the circumstance of rural communities in Central and Eastern North Carolina by developing and promoting sustainable economic advancement through innovative approaches to agriculture, rural industry, education and environmental management.
- Greene County Suzuki Foundation** (1999 - Present) Co-Founder, Member of the Board of Directors, President
Activities: Greene County Suzuki Foundation is a Not-For-Profit Company (US 501(c)(3)) committed to enriching and enhancing, through a program of Talent Education, the lives of minority and low-income children and their families living in rural Greene County. The foundation strives to sustain and expand a program of Talent Education in the Greene County public school system to improve academic performance and provide access to the arts. Snow Hill, NC

PRISM (USA) (1994 - 2000) Member of the Board of Directors & Head of Latin American Programs

Company Activities: The company's primary function is to disseminate advice on duckweed (or *Lemnaceae* sp.) projects, worldwide. It maintains a global clearinghouse for duckweed technologies. The Internet WWW serves as the principal vehicle for clearinghouse information dissemination. PRISM (USA), a successor to The PRISM Group, is a Not-For-Profit Company (US 501(c)(3)) with HQs in Minneapolis, Minnesota. PRISM maintains current linkages with PRISM-Peru and PRISM-Bangladesh, both earlier divisions and now reformulated as independent national NGOs.

The University of California - Davis, Caribbean PLEC Project (1995 - 1996) Research Assistant

Activities: Developing grant proposals and assisting with research activities for UN-sponsored PLEC's (People, Land Management and Environmental Change) Caribbean research cluster; data entry and statistical analysis of a Cancun, Mexico tourism survey. Davis, California.

The University of California - Davis, Institute for Transportation Studies (ITS) and Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (1994 - 1995) Research Assistant

Activities: Conducting a field survey of agricultural market vendors in Havana, Cuba; establishing a database on infrastructure and technology transfer in developing countries; research grant proposals; in-depth literature reviews. Davis, California.

The PRISM Group (1991 - 1994) Associate

Company Activities: Consulting (Peru Projects), evaluation design (Bangladesh projects), duckweed technologies for Latin America, Spanish language farmer training materials for World Bank publication, Spanish-English and English-Spanish translations. The PRISM Group is a Not-For-Profit Company (US 501(c)(3))- with HQs in Columbia, Maryland.

PRISM Peru (1989 - 1991) Project Manager

Company Activities: Founder and manager of Northern Peru (Chiclayo) field office; project design and management; staff training; survey design & execution; participatory needs assessment; focus informant groups; duckweed technologies for wastewater treatment. Lima and Chiclayo, Peru.

On-Farm Research Activities: (*Lemnaceae*-related research) Rice-duckweed intercropping; nutritional efficacy of duckweed-based feeds for poultry; duckweed-based wastewater treatment systems; duckweed dryers and harvesters; salt uptake by duckweed cropped in brackish media.

Madison Area Technical College (1989) Teacher

Company Activities: Teaching Latino adults English as a second language. Madison, Wisconsin.

Madison Literary Council (1988 - 1989) Teacher

Company Activities: Teaching relocated Mexican nuns English as a second language. Madison, Wisconsin.

Eurocentro (1988) Teacher

Company Activities: Teaching English as a second language to adolescent Spanish children. Aracena, Spain.

Private Tutor (1985 - 1986) Teacher

Activities: Tutoring English to Spanish speakers. Seville, Spain.

GRANTS FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND/OR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH:

NSF Early CAREER Award (Pending) "Rural Transformation & Latino Transnational Migration & Settlement in the U.S. South." \$478,583 requested from Geography and Regional Science Program

ECU Division of Research & Graduate Studies (2005 - 2006) "Rural Transformation & Latino Transnational Migration & Settlement in the U.S. South." Research Development Seed Grant. \$19,317

ECU Teaching Grant (2005 - 2006) Bridging the Digital Divide: Creating a Service Learning-Based Distance Education Practicum for Professionals and Students of Rural Development (GEOG 6355). \$7000 stipend for course development

Braitmayer Foundation (2004 - 2005) "Los Puentes," Dual Language Immersion and Multicultural Education Program: Grant to support: 1) Development of a Integrated Teacher Training Program; 2) Spanish World Expansion for Higher Grades; 3) Establishment of an ECU Los Puentes Fellowship. \$35,000

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation (2003 – 2005) "Los Puentes" Dual Language Immersion Education and Research Program. Grant to support a partnership between ECU and the Greene County Public School System to: 1) establish a dual language immersion (Spanish/English) program at Snow Hill Primary School; and 2) conduct research on Latino transnational migration to Greene County, NC. \$65,000

ECU Research/Creative Activity Grant (2003) Tourism-Driven Rural-to-Urban Migration in the Yucatan Peninsula. Grant to study the impacts of tourism-driven migration on agricultural production and rural communities in Quintana Roo, Mexico. \$15,000

Golden LEAF Foundation (2001 - 2003) Grant to support ECU Department of Geography Rural Development Initiative to: 1) establish Rural Development Masters curriculum and undergraduate certificate; 2) conduct research on kenaf as an alternative crop to tobacco; 3) organize a regional rural restructuring conference. \$60,000

Carolina Light & Power (CP&L) (2000 - 2001) Suzuki Music Education in Greene County Public Schools. \$10,000

The LeBrun Foundation (1994) Seed grant for the establishment of PRISM PERU as an independent local NGO. \$60,000

The Lounsbery Foundation (1994 - 1995) Seed grant for the establishment of PRISM PERU as an independent local NGO. \$50,000

The Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation (1993 - 1994) The Ferreñafe Agrosanitation Zone Project. \$50,000

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (1993) The Shobuj Shona Project Evaluation. \$35,000

US Department of Agriculture (1993 - 1994) The Ferreñafe Agrosanitation Zone Project. \$30,000

Canadian Counterpart Fund (CIDA) Peru (1991 - 1994) The Ferreñafe Agrosanitation Zone Project. \$300,000

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Forestry Development Fund, Peru (1991) The Ferreñafe Agrosanitation Zone Project. \$30,000

The LeBrun Foundation (1991) The Ferreñafe Agrosanitation Zone Project. \$35,000

The Lounsbery Foundation (1991) The Ferreñafe Agrosanitation Zone Project. \$35,000

SCHOLARSHIPS & ACADEMIC AWARDS:

Social Science Research Council (SSRC)/UCLA International Institute and Department of Sociology (2004) Summer Institute on International Migration. Los Angeles (June 21-26, 2004)

Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences (2003/04) College Research Award to provide release time in support of research project, "Tourism-Driven Rural-to-Urban Migration in the Yucatan Peninsula."

Thomas W. Rivers Endowment Fund (2002) Faculty Travel Grant to Attend "Participatory Appraisal (PA)" Training at the University of Northumbria, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK (June 24-28, 2002).

University of California, Davis, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Jastrow-Shields Research Award (1997 - 98) Dissertation Research in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Fulbright Award (1996 - 97) Dissertation Research in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

National Science Foundation, Dissertation Enhancement Award (1996 - 97) Dissertation Research in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

University of California, Davis, Humanities Award (1996 - 97) Dissertation Research in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

University of California, Davis, Fee Fellowship (1996 - 97 and 1997 - 98)

University of California, Davis, Research Mentorship Award (1995 - 96)

University of California, Davis, Transportation Center Fellowship (1994 - 95) Farmer's Market Study in Havana, Cuba.

Josten Memorial Humanitarian Award (1985)

PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS:

In Print or Forthcoming:

Torres, R. and J. Momsen "'Gringolandia': Cancun and the American Tourist." In *Adventures in Mexico: Discovering a New American Perspective, 1945-present.* Edited by Nicholas Bloom, Rowman and Littlefield, Jaguar Series on Latin America (forthcoming 2006)

Torres, R. (2005) "Introduction: Globalization, Development and Environmental Change in the Caribbean." *Southeastern Geographer Caribbean Special Issue*, vol. 45 (2) 165-173

Torres, R. and J. Momsen (2005) "Gringolandia: The Construction of a New Tourist Space in Mexico." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, vol. 95 (2) 314-335

Torres, R. and J. Momsen (2005) "Planned Tourism Development in Quintana Roo, Mexico: Engine for Regional Development or Prescription for Inequitable Growth?" *Current Issues in Tourism*, vol. 8 (4) 259-285

Torres, R. and J. Momsen (2004) "Challenges and Potential for Linking Tourism and Agriculture to Achieve Pro-Poor Tourism Objectives." *Progress in Development Studies*, vol. 4 (4) pp. 294-318

Torres, R. and P. Skillicorn (2004) "Montezuma's Revenge: How Sanitation Concerns May Injure Mexico's Tourist Industry." *Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly*, vol. 45 (2) 132-144

Torres, R. (2003) "Linkages Between Tourism and Agriculture in Mexico," *Annals of Tourism Research*, vol. 30 (3) 546-566

Torres, R. (2003) "Vínculos Entre Turismo y Agricultura en Méjico," *Annals of Tourism Research en Español*, vol. 5 (2) 187-212

Torres, R. (2003) Unit 20: Middle and South America: "Regions of Cancun." *Activities and Resources for the Geography of the World (ARGWORLD) Educational CD*, Association of American Geographers

- Torres, R, J. Popke, H. Hapke, M. Suarez, H. Serrano, B. Chambers and P. Castaño (2003)
 "Transnational Communities in Eastern North Carolina: Results from a Survey of Latino Families in Greene County," *North Carolina Geographer*, vol. 11, pp. 89-109
- Torres, R. (2002) "Cancun's Tourism Development from a Fordist Spectrum of Analysis," *Tourist Studies*, vol. 2 (1) 87-116
- Torres, R. (2002) "Toward a Better Understanding of Tourism and Agriculture Linkages in the Yucatan: Tourist Food Consumption and Preferences," *Tourism Geographies*, vol. 4 (3) 282-306
- Skillicorn, P. and R. Torres (2001) "Hookerton, North Carolina: A Small Community Rescued by Duckweed?" *North Carolina Geographer*, vol. 9, 71-82
- Skillicorn, P. and R. Torres (2000) "Kenaf: A New Farmer-Driven Solution to Eastern Carolina's Agricultural Crisis," *North Carolina Geographer*, vol. 8, pp. 67-74
- Skillicorn, P.W., M. Ikramullah, H. Rashid, R. Torres, and A. Mokaddem (1995) Duckweed Aquaculture: A Manual for Small Farmers, Volumes I & II, The World Bank, EMENA (internal publication and available on the Web at the Duckweed Clearinghouse)
- Skillicorn, P.W., W. Spira, W. Journey and R. Torres (1995) Acuacultivo de la Lemnaceae: Un Nuevo Sistema de Cultivo Acuático para Países en Vías de Desarrollo, The World Bank, EMENA (internal publication and also available on the Web at the Duckweed Clearinghouse)
- Torres, R. (1993) A New Model for Women in Development: Enterprise, Asset Accumulation and Income Generation in Bangladesh, WWW published upon request: (<http://www.ntrnet.net/~skilli/Bangla.htm> and available on the Web at the Duckweed Clearinghouse)

Manuscripts Under Review/Revision:

"The South's Silent Bargain: Rural Restructuring, Latino Labor, and the Ambiguities of Migrant Experience" with Jeff Popke and Holly Hapke in *The New South: Latinos and the Transformation of Place*, edited by Heather Smith and Owen Furuseth, to be published by Ashgate Publishing

Manuscripts in Progress:

- Torres, R., "Tourism and Migration: Unexplored Connections."
- Torres, R. and D. Niemeier and J. Momsen "Cuba's Farmers' Markets: Agricultural Organization, Transportation Access and Performance."
- Torres, R., M. Norton and A. Monjaraz "Rural Poverty, Livelihoods and Migration in the Yucatan Peninsula."
- Popke, J. and R. Torres "Latino Transnationalism and the Negotiation of Citizenship in the Rural South."

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES:

- Guest Editor, Special Issue of the Southeastern Geographer on the Caribbean, *Southeastern Geographer*, vol. 25 (2) 165-297 (With Southeastern Geographer editors Derek Alderman and Scott Lecce)
- Guest Co-Editor, Proceedings of Conference, "Curing the Future: Issues and Strategies in Remaking Tobacco Dependent Communities in North Carolina," Pitt County Agricultural Center, Feb 28-Mar 1, 2002. Published in a special issue of *The North Carolina Geographer* on "Remaking Tobacco Dependent Communities," Vol. 10, 2002 (With Holly Hapke, Jeffrey Popke, Derek Alderman)

REFEREE ACTIVITIES:

ALO/USAID, U.S.-Mexico Training, Internships, Exchanges, and Scholarships (TIES) (Phase II)

Annals of Tourism Research (4)
Environment and Planning A
Journal of Geography
Journal of Sustainable Tourism
National Geographic Society Grant Proposal
Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography: Special Issue on Gender & Biodiversity
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Grant Proposal
Southeastern Geographer
Tourism Geographies (2)

COURSES TAUGHT:

Geography 1000: Introduction to Geography
Geography 3049: Latin America
Geography 4330/6330: Agricultural Geography/Global Restructuring of Agro-Food Systems
Geography 4335/6335: Geography of Tourism/Tourism Development
Geography 6355: Practicum in Rural Development

MASTERS THESIS ADVISING:**Directed:**

Melissa Wicks (Geography), "The Dream Act: The Future of Latino Education in North Carolina." (in process)

Joe Mangum (Geography, Internship Project), "Greenway Planning in the United States: A Case Study of Pitt County, Eastern North Carolina." (in process)

Velvet Nelson (Geography), "Analysis of Representation for the Examination of Ecotourism Development in Grenada." (Completed 05/03)

Elin Langholm (Geography), "Tourism Development in the Largest Remaining Carib Community: A Gender Perspective." (Completed 12/02)

Committee Member:

Bianca Gentile (Geography) "Gender and Development in Eastern North Carolina." (in process)

Justin Gross (Geography) "Renaissance Festivals as a Tourism Destination: A Case Study in North Carolina." (in process)

Matt Mitchelson (Geography) "The Economic Landscapes of MLK Streets" (in process)

Sallie Vaughn (Geography) "Late Classic Transitions: Human Reaction to Environmental Shifts in a Maya Community." (in process)

Amanda Williams (Geography), "Economic Development, Environment, Disease and Public Health Care Delivery in Sub-Saharan Africa." (in process)

Rumiko Yamamoto (International Studies), "Microfinance and Development." (Completed 05/04)

Glenn Gentry (Geography), "Walking With the Dead: Ghost Walk Tourism in Savannah, Georgia." (Completed 05/04)

Jeff Prince (Geography, Internship), "'Eat Mo' Shad': An In-Depth Look at the Growing Importance of Rural Festivals." (Completed 05/03)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:**Paper Presentations:**

"Latino Transnationalism and the Negotiation of Citizenship in the Rural South," co-authored with Jeff Popke, presented at *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, Denver,

Colorado April 9 2005.

Research Presentation Panel co-organized with Lida Cope, Marcela Ruiz-Funes and Stephanie Cain focused on *Los Puentes* Dual Language Immersion Program titled, "Dual Language Immersion: Language, Literacy, and Community Development." Individual Presentation within the panel is titled, "*Los Puentes* Socio-economic Context: Latino Immigrant Families, Dual Language Immersion and Community Development." The 39th Annual TESOL Convention, "Teaching Learning, Learning Teaching: A Nexus in Texas," San Antonio, TX, April 1, 2005.

"Latino Transnational Migration and Settlement in Rural North Carolina," co-authored with Jeff Popke and Holly Hapke, presented at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC)/UCLA International Institute and Department of Sociology *Summer Institute on International Migration*, Los Angeles, June 21-26, 2004.

"Dynamics of Latino Transnational Migration in the Rural U.S. South," presented with co-authors Holly Hapke and Jeff Popke at the *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, Philadelphia, March 2004.

"Tourism Development, Rural Poverty and Migration in the Yucatan Peninsula," presented with co-author Michelle Norton at the *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, Philadelphia, March 2004.

"Opportunities and Constraints to Developing Tourism and Agriculture Linkages in the Mexican Caribbean," presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, Philadelphia, March 2004.

"Placing Tourism & Agriculture Linkages on the Pro-Poor Tourism Agenda" presented with co-author Janet Momsen at the *Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers*, Charlotte, North Carolina, November 2003.

"Gringolandia': The Construction of Transnational Tourism Space in Mexico," presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, New Orleans, March 2003.

"Applying Fordist - Post-Fordist Perspectives to Understanding Tourism Development in Cancun," presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers*, Lexington, Kentucky, November 2001.

"Tourism and Agriculture in Quintana Roo, Mexico: Layers of Unequal and Uneven Development," presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, New York City, March 2001.

Panel Participation/Presentations:

Invited Panel Presentation, "Tourism for Poverty Reduction and Development/Transnational Perspectives for Conceptualizing Tourism," in "An Agenda for Recreation, Tourism and Sport Geographies," *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, Denver, Colorado April 9 2005.

Invited Panelist, "Learning to Publish: The Rules, Risks, and Rewards," (Organized by Derek Alderman, Clifton Dixon, and Scott Lecce), Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers, Biloxi, Mississippi, November 2004.

Invited Panel Presentation, "Opportunities for Service-Learning Projects in Support of Tourism Development," *ECU Tourism Conference: Making Tourism Work for You*, Session on "Tourism Resources within the East Carolina Community," Greenville, North Carolina, October 5, 2004.

Organization:

Paper Session Organizer and Chair with Dr. Victoria Berry, "Caribbean Session I: Human and Environment Relations," *Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers*, West Palm Beach, FL, November 21, 2005.

Paper Session Organizer and Chair with Dr. Victoria Berry, "Caribbean Session II: Transnational

Geographies," *Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers*, West Palm Beach, FL, November 21, 2005.

Session Chair, "Food and Health," *Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers*, West Palm Beach, FL, November 22, 2005.

Paper Session Organizer and Chair with Dr. Janet Momsen, "Tourism and Agriculture Relationships I: Linkages, Impacts and Constraints," *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, Philadelphia, March 2004.

Paper Session Organizer and Chair with Dr. Janet Momsen, "Tourism and Agriculture Relationships II: Agritourism as Niche Market Tourism," *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, Philadelphia, March 2004.

Paper Session Organizer and Chair with Dr. Janet Momsen, "Tourism and Agriculture Relationships III: Agritourism in the United States," *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, Philadelphia, March 2004.

Session Chair, "Planning, Place, and Transnationalism in Tourism," *Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers*, New Orleans, March 2003.

Conference Co-Organizer with Dr. Holly Hapke "Curing the Future: Issues and Strategies in Remaking Tobacco-Dependent Communities," *ECU Department of Geography Rural Development Initiative Conference Funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation*, Greenville, North Carolina, February/March 2002.

Paper Session Organizer with Dr. Derek Alderman, "Geographies of Tourism I," *Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers*, Lexington, Kentucky, November 2001.

Paper Session Organizer with Dr. Derek Alderman and Session Chair, "Geographies of Tourism II," *Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers*, Lexington, Kentucky, November 2001.

Paper Discussant:

Paper Discussant, "Finding a Way: Corn, Women and Migration in Veracruz, Mexico," by Holly Worthen presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers*, West Palm Beach, FL, November 23, 2005.

INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

"Tourism for Rural Development and Poverty Reduction," presented to the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 14, 2005

"Los Puentes: University-Community Partnerships and Support," presented as part of the Plenary Session Panel (with Gail Edmondson, Patricia MacNeill and Stephanie Cain) featuring Los Puentes Dual Language Immersion and Multicultural Education and Research Program at the ECU / Center for International Understanding (UNC- Chapel Hill) Latino/Hispanic Education Conference, "Improving Education for Latino/Hispanic Students: Practices that are Working in North Carolina," Greenville, NC, February 26, 2004.

"Keeping a Foot on Both Sides: Bridging the Divide Between Praxis and the Ivory Tower," presented to the Graduate Group in Geography at the University of California at Davis, May 31, 2002.

"Understanding Tourism Development in the Yucatan from a Fordist Spectrum of Analysis," presented to the Geography Department at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, April 3, 2002.

CONSULTING ACTIVITIES:

ALO/USAID Peer Review Panelist, Phase II of the U.S.-Mexico Training, Internships, Exchanges, and

Scholarships (TIES) Partnerships Initiative, May 18th, 2005, Washington, D.C.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

AAG Recreation, Tourism & Leisure Specialty Group, Board Member (2005 – Present)

Association of American Geographers (AAG), Affirmative Action and Minority Status Committee (Chair, 2004-Present; Member, 2003-2004)

Association of Women in Development (AWID)

Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Southeast Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG), Honors Committee (2004)

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Spanish Complete Fluency - written & spoken