

PACIFIC
HISTORICAL REVIEW

Portland State University
1721 SW Broadway
Cramer Hall 487
Portland, Oregon



May 29, 2026

Roosevelt Institute for American Studies
Middelburg, Netherlands

Dear Colleagues,

I write to thank you all for the opportunity to be a Roosevelt Visiting Professor this spring. I was in residence from May 1 through May 31. During that time, I worked mainly on my current book project as well as an article project on the Nixon Administration's view of Mexican Americans and Mexican investment. The book project is mainly a civil rights and labor story about labor activists in Texas. I found the RIAS research collections and newspaper collections to be particularly helpful with this work as my university does not subscribe to these collections. The Nixon project was significantly aided by the available archive materials from the Nixon presidency, as well as the Eisenhower presidency. This project looks at the near invisibility of the Mexican Americans or Mexico in the consciousness of the White House. Looking at this "calm before the storm" of Globalization within the context of a civil rights environment where the "problem" of Mexican American labor and activism emerged from time to time in the White House files enables a deeper understanding of regional bias when it comes to Race and Ethnic policy in the USA, as well as the tensions within the Republican Party.

My time at RIAS gave me a chance to focus exclusively on archives and newspaper work, and on those days when I was not reading microfilm or newspapers I was focused on reading, mapping out the argument of my book project, and beginning to plan the article/research report project. I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the *RIAS-POSTHUMUS PhD Workshop: From Research to Publication*, where I talked about publication and writing together with Drs. Gaetano Di Tommaso and Dario Fazzi (wonderful colleagues and hosts) which gave me an opportunity to discuss the process of peer review and publication from my perspective as the Editor of a peer reviewed journal. The questions and discussion were lively and continued at a future weekend gathering hosted by Gaetano Di Tommaso where I was able to catch up with Damian Pargas. My time at RIAS was also made more rewarding thanks to the opportunity to interact with the two RIAS PhD Students, Femke Fakkeldij and Bálint Honos, and hear all about their doctoral research projects. Leontien Joosse was a help during the many months of pre-planning and adjustment to Middelburg, and made sure the visit was successful. Intern Anna Van Uden guided me to materials and assisted me as I re-learned how to use microfilm and shared her own historical research project on James Foreman and SNCC with me. Communications officer Lea Josipovic made sure that the news related to my visit was well promoted.

I am so happy that Gaetano suggested this visiting professorship to me over coffee in Portugal several years ago. What a wonderful program you have at the RIAS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marc S. Rodriguez".

Marc Rodriguez
Professor
Department of History and Department of Chicano Studies
Portland State University