

FILMMAKING AS MULTIMODAL RESEARCH & ACTIVISM

**Bilingual Latinxs and
Cognitive Justice in
Philadelphia**

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WCU RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS:
Latin American Studies
December 2019



TWIN TONGUES: LEARNING ENGLISH IN AMÉRICA

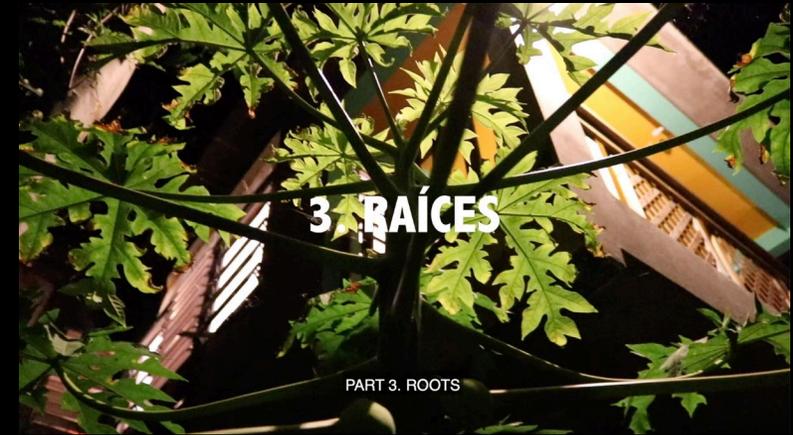
Directed By Iliana Pagán-Teitelbaum

- Film about Latinx children learning English in Philadelphia.
- Risk of language loss
- Benefits of bilingualism
- What pressures do Latinx children encounter to assimilate into English?
- Can they gain a new language without losing their native language?
- Relationship between language, culture, and power
- Linguistic diversity and cognitive justice



TWIN TONGUES: 3 PARTS

FILMED IN 2017-2018 IN PHILADELPHIA AND PUERTO RICO



MOTIVATION

- **PERSONAL.** Family history of migration and language loss/gain
- **RESEARCH** linguistic diversity
- **TEACHING.** Hispanic-heritage students in SPA 101 at WCU
- Go beyond **STEREOTYPES** of Latinx immigrant communities and show the breadth of the world of a multilingual child
- **OUTREACH** out to immigrant communities, educators, policy makers, and our society



FILMMAKING AS MULTIMODAL RESEARCH



TWIN TONGUES

Learning English
in América



"TWO TONGUES
CAN SAY
MORE THAN
ONE."

Directed
by
Iliana
Pagán-Teitelbaum

- **CREATIVE.** Produce knowledge through creative modes (visual, audio, video, performative) that challenge traditional forms of knowledge production in academia.
- **INTERDISCIPLINARY.** Draw from interdisciplinary theories of cognitive justice, language acquisition, and migration studies.
- **ACTIVE.** Filmmaking as activism in the struggles for linguistic justice.
- **ACCESS.** Make research equitable and accessible.
- **EMOTIVE CAPACITY.** Capture affective dimension of my research.



COLLABORATION WITH TESOL (TEACHING ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES)



Dr. Jelena Colovic-Marcovic
WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

OUTCOMES

1. Preproduction completed
2. Production completed
3. Current status: postproduction
 - Main editing completed
4. Screened rough cuts and collected feedback
 - Scribe Video Center, Philadelphia
 - West Chester University
 - Latino/a Communities
 - LAN 100, ENG 382, SPA 558
 - University of Pennsylvania
 - Screening Scholarship Media Festival (SSMF)
 - Delaware County Intermediate Unit
 - Casa de las Américas, Cuba



FUTURE PLANS

1. Obtain funds for:
 - Final cut
 - Color and audio correction
 - Music
 - Title design
2. Design pedagogical guide
3. Release and distribution
 - Film festivals
 - Educational institutions
 - Online
4. Continue filming



WCU RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS: Latin American Studies

TUESDAY, December 3rd
3:30pm-5:00pm
Sykes Room 10A

Presenters:



1. Linda Stevenson, Political Science, *Migration as Transformation Project in Southeastern Pennsylvania.*



2. Iliana Pagan-Teitelbaum, Languages & Cultures, *Filmmaking as Multimodal Research & Activism: Bilingual Latinxs and Cognitive Justice in Philadelphia.*



3. Daniela Johannes, Languages & Cultures, *Social Justice for Children Through Latinx Literature: A Service Learning Project for WCU.*



4. Megan Corbin, Languages & Cultures, *When Prison Craftwork Speaks: Spectral Testimony in the Southern Cone Post-dictatorship.*



5. Miguel Ceballos, Sociology, *The Effects of Immigration Policy on Latina Maternal and Child Health in Chester County: A Longitudinal Study.*



6. Jason Bartles, Languages & Cultures, *Utopian Fictions in the South Atlantic: Nature and Politics on the Malvinas/Falkland Islands.*

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