

KIMBERLY ALEJANDRA MELGOZA

Denver, Colorado
Kimberly.melgoza@du.edu
562-416-1703
Website: kimberlymelgoza.com

OBJECTIVES

I am interested in the study of indigenous religions in Mexico around the 15th century, specifically those that use hallucinogenic mushrooms religiously. I study parts of the *Florentine Codex* and its images regarding hallucinogenic mushrooms. I am also interested in the modern use of mushroom churches in the US.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

University of Denver / Iliff School of Theology, Joint Doctoral Program in Religion.

- In progress, start date September 2023
- Certificate Program in Latinx Studies – in progress

Yale Divinity School, M.A.R., 2023

Concentration: Latinx & Latin American Christianity

University of Southern California, B.A. in Religion 2021

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Courses:

- Native North America (Anthropology) - Dr. Kelly Fayard Fall 2024
- Cultural Anthropology – Dr. Kelly Fayard Spring 2025
- Pandemics & Healing in History – Dr. Albert Hernandez Fall 2025

Yale Young Global Scholars Instructor

Summer 2022 & 2023

Taught seminars about Religion to high school students around the globe

- Death in Buddhism, Daoism, and Hinduism
- 21st Century religion and drugs

USC MESA

2017-2021

- STEM Outreach staff
- Lead STEM activities at local middle school and high schools

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Joint Meeting of the American Academy of Religion RMGP Region and the Religion & Bible Society of the Rocky Mountain Great Plains Region

Presented:

- “Mushrooms, Bread, and Wine: Sacraments” March 22-23, 2024
- “Mushroom Churches Are Systems of Colonization” March 28-29, 2025

Program for the Evolution of Spirituality

Harvard Divinity School

- Spirituality and the Arts Conference April 23-26, 2025
 - “Santa Muerte The Statuette”

American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting Nov 19-23, 2025

- Presented: “Santa Muerte The Statuette”

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship November 6, 2020
 MMUF West Coast Regional Undergraduate Conference

- Presented: “The History of Hallucinogenic Mushrooms in Mexico”

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Graduate Student Association at the University of Denver

Third Year Representative	Fall 2025 – Present
Second Year Representative	Fall 2024-Spring 2025
First Year representative	Fall 2023-Spring 2024

La Comunidad at Yale Divinity School

Co-coordinator	Fall 2021-Spring 2023
----------------	-----------------------

- Restarted this organization; a student organization for students who identify as Latinx and allies at YDS

LANGUAGES

Proficient: English and Spanish
 Beginner: French and Russian

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Hispanic Theological Initiative Scholar	2025 – Present
American Academy of Religion, Student Member	2024 – Present
American Anthropological Association	2025 – Present
RMGP AAR – RBS Regional	2024 – Present
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow	2020 – Present
MALCS (Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social)	2025-Present
Religious Research Association	Student Member 2024
USC Latino Alumni Association Scholar	2017-2021

REFERENCES

Albert Hernandez – Associate Professor, History of Christianity, ahernandez@iliff.edu

OTHER

Article written with my consultation: <https://themicrodose.substack.com/p/flesh-of-the-gods>
 Nov 25, 2024

Cultural Consultant for a film to be made soon!

Article written with my consultation coming Spring 2026.