

Juan González

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FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Journalism, media history, federal mass communications policy; history of Latinos in the United States; immigration, ethnic and labor relations; and role of dissident movements in promoting social change.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Jan. 2017 to Present

Currently serve as the Richard D. Heffner Professor in Communications and Public Policy and Professor of Professional Practice in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, School of Communication and Information, where I have taught courses in “Development of Mass Media” and “Investigative and In-Depth Reporting.” In addition I organized public events at Rutgers featuring well-known professional journalists and activists on issues of race, social justice and the mass media, and currently serve as faculty adviser to the *Daily Targum*, the nation’s second-oldest university student newspaper. I have also launched the New Jersey Hispanic Newspaper Digital Archive Project, which seeks to locate and preserve in digital format copies of Spanish-language newspapers that were produced in New Jersey but were never archived by public or university libraries – as part of an effort to document the contributions of the Latino community to the life of the state. Since my appointment, I have also lectured at campuses across the country, including at Princeton University, University of Richmond, University of Denver, University of Maryland, St. Mary’s College, Hofstra University, the Graduate Center of the City University New York, and served as keynote speaker in 2018 at the Mellon Digital Humanities Initiative Conference at Lehigh University.

Co Host, *Democracy Now!*

Feb. 1996 to Present

A progressive daily radio and television news show now heard on more than 1,200 community and public radio and television stations in the U.S. and Latin America. Along with the show’s main host, Amy Goodman, I covered major national and international events, including the 1999 Seattle World Trade Organization protests and numerous presidential nominating conventions, and conducted exclusive interviews with dozens of major figures in politics and the arts, including Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez, Bolivian president Evo Morales, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, writers Isabel Allende, Ariel Dorfman, Alice Walker and Howard Zinn, and filmmakers Michael Moore and Oliver Stone.

Staff columnist, *New York Daily News*

Dec. 1987 to May 2016

Authored a twice-weekly column for twenty-nine years focused on urban issues and major news events around the nation and in Latin America, including the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama, the 1992 Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, natural disasters and political upheaval in Haiti, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Mexico, presidential elections in the U.S., as well as the administrations of five New York City mayors from Ed Koch to Bill de Blasio



WNET Channel 13

Feb. 1991 to July 1992

Host of *Eleventh Hour* and co-host of *Informed Sources* for WNET, Channel 13. Hosted first a weekly local news magazine, *Eleventh Hour*, then was a member of a weekly reporter's roundtable, *Informed Sources*.

Staff Reporter, Philadelphia Daily News

Nov. 1978 to Dec. 1987

Covered a variety of "beats" over a nine-year period, including police headquarters, the labor movement, the environment, public schools, and City Hall. Also wrote a monthly column on the Latino community.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

January 2017 to Present

Richard D. Heffner Professor of Communications and Public Policy and Professor of Professional Practice in Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the School of Communication and Information.

New York University

Fall 2015

As the Andres Bello Chair in Latin American Cultures and Civilization, I taught a graduate seminar in the history of Latino news reporting in the United States, delivered public lectures on the Puerto Rico Debt Crisis and the history of radical Latino journalists in this country, and moderated three public forums on major issues in Latino life, including one with Broadway star Lin-Manuel Miranda of Hamilton.

Brooklyn College, City University of New York

Spring 2001 to Spring 2003

As the Belle Zeller Distinguished Visiting Professor in Public Policy, I taught in both the Political Science and Puerto Rican and Latino Studies departments, including undergraduate courses such as "Puerto Rican Communities in the U.S.," "History of Puerto Ricans and Dominicans in New York City," "Latinos in the Media," "Politics and the Media," and a graduate course in "New York City Government."

PUBLICATIONS/BOOKS

Reclaiming Gotham: Bill de Blasio and the Movement to End America's Tale of Two Cities (New Press, 2017)

News for All The People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media (Verso Press, 2011), co-written with Joseph Torres

Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America (Viking, 2000, Penguin paperback 2001), revised 2nd edition (Penguin, 2011)

Fallout: The Environmental Consequences of the World Trade Center Collapse (New Press, 2002);

Roll Down Your Window: Stories from a Forgotten America (Verso, 1998).



PUBLICATIONS/ANTHOLOGIES AND JOURNAL ARTICLES

“On Histories and Strategies for Activism,” chapter in *Contemporary Latina/o Media: Production, Circulation, Politics*, edited by Arlene Dávila and Yeidy Rivero (New York University Press, 2014).

“Labor’s Future in the Imperial Age,” *New Labor Forum*#14 (Summer 2005), Queens College Labor Resource Center, City University of New York.

Silenced: The Unsolved Murders of Immigrant Journalists in the United States, by Committee to Protect Journalists (December 1994). Preface to series of articles.

“The Turbulent Progress of Puerto Ricans in Philadelphia,” *Bulletin of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Winter 1987-88), Hunter College, City University of New York

PUBLICATIONS/NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES AND COLUMNS

Having authored nearly 4,000 newspaper articles and columns over the past forty years, I am perhaps the most frequently published Latino journalist in contemporary U.S. English-language news media. A few examples are attached in an appendix. A more substantial collection of those articles can be found at Hunter College’s Center for Puerto Rican Studies, which has archived my writings and papers.

I have also authored dozens of magazine and on-line articles in *The Nation*, *The Intercept*, the New York Times Syndicate, *The Progressive*, *Latina*, *The Source*, *Hispanic Business*, *Al Dia* of Philadelphia, and Hispanic Link News Service, as well as several pamphlets. Some examples are:

“Puerto Rico’s \$123 Billion Bankruptcy is the cost of U.S. Colonialism,” *The Intercept*, May 9, 2017.

“Vieques Libre: Puerto Rico Wants the U.S. Navy to Get Out,” *In These Times*, October 3, 1999.

“Puerto Rico Had Never Seen Anything Like It: The meaning of the general strike,” *The Progressive magazine* (September 1998)

“Puerto Ricans in the U.S.: A community battling a negative image with the force of positive action,” *Vista magazine*, May 2, 1987.

“Puerto Ricans on the Mainland,” *Perspectives*, U.S. Civil Rights Commission (Winter 1982).

“How Long Must We Wait? The Fight for Racial and Ethnic Equality in the American News Media,” co-written with Joseph Torres (August 2004).

“The Status of Puerto Ricans in the United States,” co-written with Hildamar Ortiz for the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights (April 1987).

FILMS



“Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America” (2012). I narrated the feature-length documentary that was based on my book by the same name. The film garnered the Cine Golden Eagle and the Imagen awards for best documentary of the year as well as the International Documentary Association Award for best use of archival footage.

“Valley of Tears,” (2005). I co-wrote script for PBS documentary on the historic 1979 onion strike by Mexican farm workers in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

“Haiti: Killing the Dream,” (1994). I co-wrote script for PBS documentary on the 1992 military coup that ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide. The film won best documentary awards at the 1994 Toronto and San Juan film festivals.

“Agenda for the Americas,” (1993). I wrote the script for WPIX-TV documentary on the 1993 status referendum in Puerto Rico.

I have also appeared as a narrator or commentator in the following full-length documentaries:

“Mumia: Long Distance Revolutionary,” (2013), on the life of former Black Panther Party member and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has spent more than 35 years in prison for killing a Philadelphia police officer.

“Latinos Beyond Reel: Challenging a Media Stereotype,” (2012), documentary by the Media Education Foundation

“Justice on Trial,” (2012), documentary by Baruch College History Professor Johanna Fernandez that reviewed evidence in the murder conviction of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

“Nueva York,” (2010), a Ric Burns film produced as part of the New York Historical Society’s exhibition on the 500-year Latino history of New York City.

“Roberto Clemente,” (2008), a PBS American Experience documentary on the first Latino in the Baseball Hall of Fame.


“Dust to Dust, the Health Effects of 9/11,” (2006), documentary first broadcast on Sundance Channel.

“Viva Baseball” (2005), documentary on impact of Latino players on baseball, first broadcast on Spike-TV Channel.

“Ring of Fire: The Emile Griffith Story,” (2005), documentary on the former boxing champion first broadcast on HBO.

“Poison Dust” (2005), documentary on the impact of depleted uranium shells in Iraq and on U.S. soldiers.

“Jose Torres: After the Garden,” (2003) documentary on the life of former light-heavy weight boxing champion Jose “Chegui” Torres, first broadcast on MSG Channel.



“Rebels with a Cause,” (2000), documentary on the radical student group Students for a Democratic Society

LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

I have been a guest speaker or lecturer at hundreds of university events, conferences and community gatherings over the years. The educational institutions have included: Cornell, San Francisco State, Tufts, University of Texas at Austin, Annenberg School of the University of Southern California, Cal State Northridge, Cal State L.A., CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, NYU School of Journalism, University of Maryland, Rice University, Temple University, Seton Hall, St. John’s, Fordham, Colgate, State University of New York at New Paltz, Michigan State, University of Missouri, University of New Mexico, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, Immaculata College, Trinity College, Boston University, State University of New York at Westbury, Long Island University.

Presentations during 2018 included:

Jan. 31; University of Richmond, campus wide lecture on “Paradise Lost: Puerto Rico’s Descent into Economic Collapse and Climate Devastation, and What Can be Done About It?”

April 6 : St. Mary’s College, Ca., campus lecture on “Tear Down that Wall: America’s Great Immigration Debate.”

April 15: University of Denver – Keynote lecture at conference on Puerto Rico’s economic and climate crisis.

April 19: City University of New York Graduate Center, keynote lecture for the *Ingovernables* conference, on “Popular resistance to neoliberal urban policies.”


April 21: Lehigh University – keynote address at Our Digital Humanity: Storytelling, Media Organizing and Social Justice Conference.

April 23: SUNY Old Westbury – campus wide lecture on “Puerto Rico’s Descent Into Economic Collapse and Climate Devastation.”

April 27: Columbia University – keynote panel on conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Columbia Student Strike of 1968.

May 8: New York University – member of the keynote panel with Barcelona Deputy Mayor Gerardo Pisarello at NYU Democracy Lab’s People’s Cities Summit.

June 6: Cooper Union, Great Hall – keynote panel on the launch of Naomi Klein’s new book, *The Battle for Paradise: Puerto Rico Takes on the Disaster Capitalists*.



June 25: Brooklyn Historical Society – keynote panel on “The (New) Urban Resistance: Progressives Go Local.”

Sept. 21: Rutgers Law School – keynote presentation at conference on “Puerto Rico, A Year After Hurricane Maria.”

Sept. 28: 516 Arts Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, “Puerto Rico Defying Darkness,” a conversation with artist Chemi Rosado-Seijo, sponsored by the Lannan Foundation.

Oct. 5: Princeton Theological Seminary, *Herencia* Lecture: “Reaping What We Sow: Roots of Central American Migration.”

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/SERVICE


2016: Named a Fellow of the New York Academy of History

2002-2004: Served as President of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. During that time, I initiated and implemented a five-year strategic plan for the association that achieved the following milestones:

- Doubled the organization’s annual budget from \$1 million to more than \$2 million and increased its full-time staff from 6 to 12.
- Secured more than \$1.6 million in new grants from major foundations, including the McCormick-Tribune Foundation, the Knight Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the Open Society Institute.
- Organized the first successful individual giving program among NAHJ’s own membership, an initiative that raised more than \$250,000 from the group’s veteran members.
- Created the Parity Project, an innovative effort to partner with local media companies to improve the hiring of Latino journalists and coverage of the Latino community. At its highpoint, the Parity Project operated in 24 cities around the country with companies like the *Rocky Mountain News*, the *Tampa Tribune*, the *Ventura County Star* and National Public Radio.
- Spearheaded an effort by U.S. journalists and other media reform groups to successfully oppose the Federal Communications Commission’s attempt in 2002-2003 to dismantle regulations prohibiting concentrated media ownership, testifying before both the FCC and a committee of the House of Representatives.
- 1985: Together with Will Sutton, former *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter, initiated first-ever joint meeting of the board of directors of NAHJ and the National Association of Black Journalists, a cooperative effort that eventually led in 1994 to the creation of UNITY: Journalists of Color.

1985 – 2010: I have served as a panelist or speaker at most annual conferences of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

1984: Taught at the Maynard Institute’s Summer Program for Minority Journalists at University of California Berkeley.



1982 – 1984: Member of the organizing committee to create the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, one of NAHJ’s founding members, and elected to its first board of directors, and currently a lifetime member of NAHJ.

1980 – 1982: Taught at New Jersey Summer High School Journalism Institute, a program sponsored by the *Philadelphia Daily News* and directed by the pioneering African-American journalist Chuck Stone.

1978 – 1996: Member of the Newspaper Guild. As an active Guild member, I was selected to co-chair strike committees at two of the major newspaper labor conflicts of the past thirty years – the 5-week strike in 1985 by all seven unions at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Daily News* and the 5-month strike in 1990-91 by 2,500 workers at the *New York Daily News*.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2016

- Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Emerson College, Boston, Mass.
- Citation from the New York City Council for Contributions to Journalism

2015

- Inducted into the New York Journalism Hall of Fame of the Deadline Club, Society of Professional Journalists, the first journalist of Latino descent to be so honored

2014

First place award for commentary from the Deadline Club, the New York Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, for a series of columns on financial corruption at the Queens Public Library, the country’s largest urban library system

2013

- Francis Perkins Award from the New York Fiscal Policy Institute
- Community Champion Award from the Latino Justice/Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund

2012

- President’s Award from UNITY: Journalists of Color
- Finalist for the Robert F. Kennedy Award for *News for All the People*

2011

Civil Service Advocate of the Year Award from the New York Civil Service Merit Council

2010

George Polk Award for commentary, for investigative series of columns that exposed the biggest scandal in the Bloomberg administration -- fraud and abuse in the \$700-million CityTime payroll and timekeeping project.

2008



-Honorary Doctorate of Laws, The City University of New York School of Law;
-Inducted into National Association of Hispanic Journalists' Hall of Fame

2005

-Chosen as Everett C. Parker Lecturer by the Office of Communications of the United Church of Christ for its annual breakfast for media justice in Washington, D.C.
-Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Puerto Rican Coalition

2004

Lifetime Leadership Award from the Hispanic Heritage Foundation at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

2002

Ruben Salazar Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism from the National Council of La Raza..

1998

George Polk Award for commentary for body of work.

1991

"Heart of New York Award," New York City Press Club

1990

Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights

1988

New York State Associated Press Award, first place, for Column Writing

1987

Proclamation from the Philadelphia City Council for public service in journalism

1982

Keystone Press Association Award for Investigative Reporting, for "Cancer Zones," a series of articles about hot spot neighborhoods for cancer incidence in Philadelphia.

1979

Philadelphia Press Association Award for Investigative Reporting for "The Recycling of Philadelphia," a series co-written with Linn Washington and Frederick Lowe about gentrification in Philadelphia's inner city.

1968 Lawrence H. Chamberlain Award community service award from Columbia College for my work as director of the Program to Activate Community Talent, an after-school tutorial and community empowerment program which involved more than 200 Columbia and Barnard students volunteering to work in the largely Afro-American and Latino community of Manhattan Valley that borders the Columbia University campus.



Community Service

Before my career in journalism, I spent several years as a community and civil rights activist in minority communities, helping to found and lead two national organizations, the Young Lords Party during the late 1960s, and the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights during the late 1970s, and serving as chairman of the Philadelphia Chapter of the African Liberation Support Committee in 1977-1978.

Education

Columbia College, Columbia University, BA Degree