

LEONARDO MENDOZA

LMendoza12@luc.edu

EDUCATION

- MA Bioethics, Loyola Marymount University
- MA Theology, Loyola Marymount University

EMPLOYMENT

Samuel A. Attoh Fellow August 2024 – Present

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

- Designed and implemented DEI-focused initiatives aimed at fostering inclusive pedagogical practices and institutional culture within higher education.
- Facilitated scholarly workshops and critical dialogues on structural inequities, inclusive teaching, and academic allyship to advance equity in research and classroom settings.
- Developed mentorship frameworks and academic support networks to enhance retention, belonging, and professional development for underrepresented students and early-career academics.

Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant August 2024 – May 2025

Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

- Assisted Prof. Michael Murphy with THEO 291 Christian Marriage and the Family during the Fall 2024 semester.
- Collaborated with the Hank Center for the Catholic Intellectual Heritage with social media content and management.
- Other duties as assigned.

Program Coordinator December 2023 – August 2024

LMU Center for Religion and Spirituality, Los Angeles, California

- Develop and manage operations of CRS student records, including registrations, approve student records for certificate completion and process certificate paperwork to the Registrar's Office, send out evaluations to students at the end of the course. In consultation with the Senior Director, manage the awarding of tuition assistance and maintain detailed records of all classes, lectures, activities, materials used, and student feedback to duplicate and improve program.
- Organize public relations events outside the university, such as community events and exhibiting at events. Plan on-campus and online events such as open house, conferences and special classes. Assist with set-up and staffing of exhibit booth at expositions. Write, produce and maintain web pages, newsletters, social media web presence and promotional materials.
- Develop relationships with internal and external constituencies to maintain the reputation of the Center and its programs.

Tutor October 2023 – Present

LMU Center for Religion and Spirituality, Los Angeles, California

- Maintain regular office hours to provide students in the BA completion program with tutoring and academic advising services in English and Spanish.

- Facilitate check-ins to students as requested by the program director, instructors, and staff of the program to ensure that students receive the support needed to maintain good standing and complete the degree completion program.
- Create and maintain records of classes offered, maintain student records and progress, and compile and edit course recordings for future use, reference, and modifications.

Executive Assistant and Marketing Director

February 2023 – August 2023

PaymentWorld, Irvine, California

- Manage the calendar, schedule, and itinerary of the CEO and create and distribute his correspondence to Banks, Affiliates, and other internal and external partners.
- Schedule meetings with department heads, record meeting minutes and distribute them accordingly. Direct micro-level operations of the office to ensure that the CEO focused on macro-level operations of the company. Manage the expense reports of the CEO and submit all documentation to the accounting department on a quarterly basis. Maintain inventory of office supplies and create purchase orders in a timely manner.
- Create internal and external marketing materials for internal and external events and conferences. Implemented the new brand identity and create a database of company marketing materials and success rates.

Senior Administrative Coordinator

December 2021 – December 2022

Huffington Ecumenical Institute and Interfaith Programs, Loyola Marymount University

- Coordinate communications between the Office of the Dean in the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts and the Directors of the Ecumenical Institute, Catholic Studies, Jewish Studies, and Peace and Justice Studies minor programs.
- Schedule meetings with the Advisory Boards, compile and distribute agenda, record and distribute meeting minutes.
- Oversee the operations and discretionary budgets for the Ecumenical and Interfaith programs, plan and organize conferences and symposia, and write and submit year end reports to the Office of the Dean and Office of University Advancement.

Graduate Administrative Assistant

August 2021 – December 2021

Theological Studies Department, Loyola Marymount University

- Assisted the Senior Administrator and Chair of Theological Studies with administrative and technological support during the return-to-campus period of the academic term.
- Maintained academic records for the department through the collection of course syllabi, midterm examinations, and final examination. Provided support in completing speaker agreement forms and other faculty support as needed.
- Drafted the departmental newsletter to maintain the department faculty and staff up to date on campus events, changes of systems and policies, and announcements.

Graduate Administrative Assistant

August 2019 – May 2021

Graduate Program in Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University

- Tasked with managing the Latinx Theology and Ministry Initiative by writing and sending internal fundraising letters to endowed chairs, programs, departments, schools, and colleges of the university. Arranged transportation and lodging for the speaker and provided on-site support for the Latinx Ministry and Theology Lecture.

- Collaborated in creating, maintaining, and updating a database of Catholic parishes, schools, and organizations in the Southern California region to support recruitment efforts of the graduate program. Sent periodical communication on behalf of the Graduate Director announcing recruitment events and lectures.
- Assisted faculty with research and library support such as manuscript editing and indexing. Provided additional support for faculty events such as monthly colloquiums and discussion groups.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Samuel A. Attoh Fellowship for Diversity

2024 - Present

Created in honor of Samuel A. Attoh, former Dean of The Graduate School, these fellowships are awarded to incoming graduate students nominated by their department. The fellowship provides stipend and scholarship support over nine months and a \$500 annual professional development stipend.

James L. Fredericks Fellowship in Comparative Theology

2022-2023

This award was created to honor the legacy of Rev. James L. Fredericks and his commitment to both comparative theological inquiry and interreligious dialogue by supporting joint student (UG/GR) and THST faculty research in comparative theology to promote religious literacy through theological inquiry into two religious traditions. I collaborated with Prof. Amir Hussain on a project that engaged the Roman Catholic and Islamic religious traditions teaching on solidarity and what that could mean for a renewed public dialogue in America. This was a project that was initially conceived after the January 6th insurrection on the U.S. Capitol as the “Religious Right” played a role in the build up to that tragic day.

Practice Ignatian Values Award

2021 – 2022

An award granted to a student who has demonstrated the ability to make decisions congruent with their personal beliefs, values, and faith through continuous reflection and discernment and in accordance with the Jesuit values of the university’s mission.

James L. Fredericks Fellowship in Comparative Theology

2019 - 2020

I collaborated with Prof. Roy Fisher on a project that engaged the Roman Catholic and the Jewish religious traditions teaching on war with a focus in ethics and justification, and what that could mean for a renewed public dialogue in America. This project was only partially completed as a paper (unpublished and unrepresented) due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

William H. Hannon Grant

2019

A full-tuition scholarship awarded to underrepresented students with demonstrated academic merit by the William H. Hannon Foundation.

Marymount California University Grant

2017 - 2019

A full-tuition scholarship awarded to underrepresented students with demonstrated academic merit by the President and Board of Trustees at Marymount California University.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

Mendoza, Leonardo D. (2023) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transexual (LGBTQIA+) U.S. Latinx Catholics and the U.S. Catholic Church: A Critique of Certain Aspects of Roman Catholic Moral Teaching in Light of a Latinx Theological Anthropology. *Perspectivas Online*. 14 de julio de 2023. <https://perspectivasonline.com/downloads/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transexual-lgbtqai-u-s-latinx-catholics-and-the-u-s-catholic-church-a-critique-of-certain-aspects-of-roman-catholic-moral-teaching-in-light-of-a-latinx-theological-anthro/>.

Mendoza, Leonardo D. (2022) "The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard in Matthew (20:1-16) – Who are the Workers in the Lord’s Vineyard in the American Church?," *Say Something Theological: The Student Journal of Theological Studies*: Vol. 5: Iss. 1, Article 5. Available at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/saysomethingtheological/vol5/iss1/5>

Mendoza, Leonardo "Global Bioethics and Indigenous Peoples," *Journal of Hispanic / Latino Theology*: Vol. 23 : No. 2 , Article 7. (2021) :231-244
Available at: <https://repository.usfca.edu/jhlt/vol23/iss2/7>

Mendoza, Leonardo D. (2021) "The Right to Healthcare – Does the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church Assist or Inhibit the Implementation of Universal Healthcare in the United States?," *Say Something Theological: The Student Journal of Theological Studies*: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 8.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/saysomethingtheological/vol4/iss1/8>

Book Reviews

Cornerstones: Sacred Stories of LGBTQ+ Employees in Catholic Institutions, Edited by Ish Ruiz and Mark Guevarra. New Ways Ministry, 2024. 152 pages. \$24.95. (also available in Spanish)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Paper Presentation, “The Reign v. The Anti-Reign of God: The Catholic Church in the U.S. as Both Sacrament and Obstacle of and for Social Engagement” at The European Academy of Religion (University of Vienna), July 2025.

Invited Presentation, “40 Years of US Hispanic/Latina/e/o/x Theology: Attentive to the Signs of the Time Then and Now” at the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States 2025 Colloquium, Portland, Oregon, June 2025.

Paper Presentation, “Queering US Latinax Theology: A Thorn on the Side of the US Catholic Church and Latino Theologians” at The Graduate School's 18th Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium, April 2025.

Paper Presentation, “Faith and Culture: Theologizing for and with Queer Latinax Bodies,” Graduate Theology Colloquium hosted by Loyola University Chicago, Marquette University, and St. Louis University in Chicago, Illinois, February 2025.

Panel Moderator, “En Conjunto Session 2: U.S. Document for the Synod’s Continental Phase-Priority 2,” 2024 ACHTUS Colloquium at the Connors Center at Boston College, June 2024.

Poster Presentation, “LGBTQ+ Latinx Catholics and the Roman Catholic Tradition: A Critique of Certain Aspects of its Moral Thought,” 2022 ACHTUS Colloquium at the University of San Diego, June 2022.

Paper Presentation, “The Need for Solidarity in American Public Life: Insights from Roman Catholic and Islamic Social Thought,” Say Something Theological Graduate Conference hosted by the Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, April 2022.

Paper Presentation, “Religious Liberty and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Ignoring Social Responsibility in the Name of Freedom During a Public Health Crisis,” Pandemic and Religion Graduate Student Conference (Virtual) hosted by the Boisi Center for Religion in American Public Life at Boston College, February 7, 2021.

Paper Presentation, ““Faith” and “God” Rhetoric in the U.S. Public Square,” Say Something Theological Graduate Conference hosted by the Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, Date.

Paper Presentation, “A Comparative Theological Analysis of the Theory of Just War: Insights from Catholic and Jewish Religious Thought – Why No War is Ever Just,” Say Something Theological Graduate Conference hosted by the Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, Cancelled due to COVID-19.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States
American Academy of Religion
American Society of Bioethics and Humanities
European Academy of Religion (EuARe)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Search Committee for the Vice-President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion 2021 – 2022

Upon the recommendation of the President of the Graduate Students of Loyola Marymount University, President Timothy Law Snyder appointed me to this committee as the graduate student representative for the Vice-President for DEI. The search was successful and resulted in the appointment of Emelyn dela Pena.

Symposium Co-Organizer

As the senator for the College of Liberal Arts in the graduate student body, I sponsored and co-organized the Women in Theology Symposium (Virtual) with the Theological Studies Graduate Program at Loyola Marymount University during December 2020.

Catholic Mission and Identity Committee

Upon the recommendation of the President of the Graduate Students of Loyola Marymount University, Paul Viviano, Chair of the Board of Trustees appointed me to this committee as the graduate student representative for 2020-2021 academic term.

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Native Language, Fluent Reading, Writing, Speaking

German: Reading Only