

## **Presentation: Tribute to Our Colleague and Friend, Dr. Tricia Gabany-Guerrero**

Prof. Dr. Sandra Pérez Preciado  
California State University-Fullerton

Dr. Tricia Gabany-Guerrero and I met as colleagues who shared a deep passion for the study and understanding of Latin America from an interdisciplinary perspective. She worked mostly as a cultural anthropologist but also incorporated archeology and ethnography into her work dedicating much of her professional life to her love of Phurépecha culture. Over the years we shared together as members of the Latin American Studies Council at California State University, she repeatedly proposed multiple events and speakers who could come to campus to deepen our understanding of that particular world region. She worked hard alongside her students to create opportunities for learning and community building such as the memorable *Tesoros Culturales de México: Los Phurépecha de Parangaricutiro* event which marked the opening of a museum exhibit with Curpите dancers, obsidian flaking and Phurépecha food. It was a beautiful event that engaged students in curating, building leadership skills, and deepening their cultural understanding of this particular people. It was also Tricia who brought Phurépecha language and culture lessons to campus one summer through Skype. She was creative, hard-working and passionate about such opportunities. We collaborated in creating a speaker-series that focused on Human Rights in connection with a new course she had created while also bringing to campus important dialogues regarding migration and water rights in Mexico. In our last phone conversation, two weeks before she passed, we were still building our calendar of events for the following year without me realizing that her health was failing.

This volume comes as a gesture of gratitude, admiration and friendship to Dr. Tricia Gabany-Guerrero's tireless efforts to keep widening and deepening our understanding of Latin America from the perspectives of the many marginalized, suffering people. As I embraced the sadness of her loss, I promised to not forget her hard work, to keep going as best I could with her same spirit and energy in seeking to protectively treasure the contributions of the communities she studied and loved. Those honoring her memory through this volume are colleagues, friends, and students who were also touched by Dr. Gabany-Guerrero's passion for learning and have written their articles for this particular volume. Their names and contributions are hereby included in alphabetical order. Their generosity has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition and I thank them for this collective sign of friendship. In the same spirit, I am greatly indebted to Dr. Jean Lauand who put the journal at our disposal and without whom this project would not have been possible. Through his generosity as director and cofounder of the journal established in the year 1998, along with Dr. Pere Villalba, this homage has come to fruition. I also extend my gratitude to Dr. Sylvio Horta, editorial director of the journals of the CEMOrOC of the University

of São Paulo. Lastly, I thank the anonymous scholars who participated in the double blind-review process, providing valuable feedback and insights to finalize the initial texts here included. Any errors found herein remain the sole responsibility of the coordinators and editors of this volume.

Lastly, I would like to thank my colleague Dr. Enric Mallorquí-Ruscalleda for the countless hours spent leading and facilitating our work, editing drafts in order to ensure the successful and timely completion of this project. Even though Dr. Mallorquí-Ruscalleda never had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Gabany-Guerrero, he clearly understood both the sadness of our loss and the beauty of our alliance. Thus he offered to collaborate with all of us until this project came to fruition. I close recalling the gifts of passionate learning and friendship that Dr. Gabany-Guerrero left with us; may those seeds sown across painful political borders be reason to build more bridges for the Phurepécha people of Michoacán and others so dearly touched by her tireless work.

Sandra Pérez Preciado, PhD  
Fullerton, California (USA)  
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