

INTRODUCING
LATINX THEOLOGIES
Revised Edition

EDWIN DAVID APONTE

MIGUEL A. DE LA TORRE

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbisbooks.com.

Copyright © 2020 by Edwin David Aponte and Miguel A. De La Torre

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Aponte, Edwin David, author. | De La Torre, Miguel A., author.

Title: Introducing Latinx theologies / Edwin David Aponte, Miguel A. De La Torre.

Other titles: Introducing Latino/a theologies.

Description: Revised edition. | Maryknoll, NY : Orbis Books, 2020. | Originally published: Introducing Latino/a theologies. Maryknoll, N.Y. : Orbis Books, c2001.

| Includes bibliographical references and index. |

Summary: "The fundamental principles and perspectives with which Latinx communities from different faith traditions do theology are articulated" — Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2019048209 (print) | LCCN 2019048210 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781626983724 (paperback) | ISBN 9781608338368 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Hispanic American theology.

Classification: LCC BT83.575 .D4 2020 (print) | LCC BT83.575 (ebook) |

DDC 230.089/68073—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019048209>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2019048210>

Contents

<i>Preface to the 2020 Edition</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Preface to the 2001 Edition</i>	<i>xix</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>xxiii</i>
Social and Cultural Contexts for Theology	<i>xxiii</i>
A Personal Journey: Edwin David Aponte	<i>xxviii</i>
A Personal Journey: Miguel Angel De La Torre	<i>xxxiv</i>
Goals for a Common Journey	<i>xl</i>
1. Who Are Latinx Peoples?	1
Constructing Identities	1
Seeing Identity	5
What's in a Name? Hispanic, Latino, Latino/a, Latin@, Latinoa, Latinx	12
Challenges of Pan-Latinx Identity	15
Latinx Demographics	17
Mapping the Religious Background of U.S. Latinx Theologies	20
Christians	20
<i>Roman Catholic</i>	22
<i>Protestants, Evangélicos, and Pentecostals</i>	23
<i>Other Christian Traditions</i>	26
Other Expressions of the Faiths of People	27
Curanderismo	28
Espiritismo	30
<i>Santería</i>	31
<i>Recognizing Latinx Hybridity</i>	33
Non-Christian Expressions of the Faith of the People	34
<i>Latinx Jews</i>	35
<i>Latinx Muslims</i>	37
Seeing and Mapping Latinx Theologies	38

2. Common Cultural Themes within a Community-Based Theology	41
Cultural Roots Influencing Latinx Theologies	44
Exiles, Aliens, and Outsiders	49
<i>Exiles</i>	50
<i>Aliens</i>	53
<i>Outsiders</i>	57
Communities and Places	60
Race, Ethnicity, and Culture	64
<i>Machismo</i>	66
<i>Multiple Heritages and Cultural Influences on Theology</i>	68
Popular Religiosity and Spirituality	69
Reflections on Worship and Liturgy	71
Religious Beliefs in Practice	74
<i>Significance of Familia</i>	74
<i>Particularity and Latinx Theologies</i>	75
3. Theoretical and Theological Perspectives	77
Methodology	79
Latinx Readings of the Bible	83
<i>Challenges</i>	84
<i>Reading in the Languages of the People</i>	87
<i>The Centrality of Justice</i>	89
Doing Ethics	91
On Being Humans	92
Theological Topics	94
<i>Sin</i>	95
<i>Christology</i>	98
<i>Salvation</i>	100
Ecclesiology: A <i>Familia</i> of Believers	101
Evangelism and Evangelization	104
The Spirit	106
Devotion to Mary and the Challenge of <i>Marianismo</i>	108
The Last Days	111
Agility of Latinx Theologies	112
4. <i>Historia</i>: Reflections on Latinx Stories	113
Forerunners of Latinx Theologies	115
El Cura de Taos	116
<i>The Tejano Catholic Community</i>	117
Francisco Olazábal	119
Juan L. Lugo	120

<i>A Transnational Pentecostalism</i>	121
<i>Rearticulations of Pentecostalism</i>	122
<i>Mama Leo and Santos Elizondo</i>	123
<i>NYC: The Cursillo Movement and Baptist Reverend</i> <i>Santiago Soto Fontáñez</i>	124
<i>Latin American Bible Institute (LABI)</i>	126
<i>Impact on Later Articulations of Latinx Theologies</i>	127
Emergence of Hispanic Theology	127
<i>Roman Catholics</i>	129
<i>Protestants</i>	134
<i>Latina Women</i>	136
Latinx Theological Work <i>en Conjunto</i>	143
Concluding Reflections on <i>Historia</i>	146
5. The Everyday	149
Reflections on Context, Intersectionality, and Latinx Religions	149
Generational Considerations	152
Everyday Religion of the People	154
Latin Ecumenism and Theology <i>en Conjunto</i>	166
Intra-Latinx Oppression.	170
Latinization of the United States	172
Challenge of New “Undocumented” Immigrants	173
Mexicans, Chicanos/as, Chicanx, Xicana	177
Postmodern/Postcolonial Thought	179
Puerto Rico, a Colony in a Postcolonial World.	180
Social Locations and Latinx Religious Scholars	183
<i>Queering Latinx Religious Thought</i>	184
<i>Pondering the Future of the New Everyday</i>	185
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	187
<i>Index</i>	203