

Featured Student Post—Olivia Hinojosa

*“A woman who writes has power, and a woman with power is feared.”*

—Gloria Anzaldúa

Olivia Hinojosa, a second-year graduate student in the MARC program, reads this quote from an embroidered frame her sister gifted her. The quote motivates her to pursue her passion in a field where intersectional voices are silenced out of fear of their capabilities. With the endless support of her professors and close-knit cohort, Olivia has adopted a sense of agency in her writing and identity that once did not exist. She identifies as a Xicana feminist, passionate about Border Studies, feminism, and linguistic rights and equity for Latinx students. Her long-term goals are to teach composition after graduating in the Spring and to eventually enter a PhD program focusing on research that would facilitate low-privilege Latinx schools in her hometown of Edinburg, TX.

Olivia became interested in the MARC program as an undergrad after one of her professors, at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, encouraged her to pursue writing within the field of rhetoric and composition. She was drawn to Texas State University after learning about the research published by the MARC professors Dr. Rebecca Jackson, Dr. Nancy Wilson, and Dr. Octavio Pimentel, that promoted educational equity for minority students. With the goal of attaining a career in teaching writing in her community, Olivia began her journey in the MARC program. Now, she is a TA (Teaching Assistant) for two sections of English 1310 and is preparing to write her thesis that will hopefully examine the roles of emotional pain within the evolution of women’s rhetoric and, more specifically, within *womyn*-led social justice movements. In addition, she is also preparing to publish her article “Reclaiming Agency” in Dr.

Octavio Pimentel and Dr. Miriam F. Williams's newest publication, *Cuentos & Testimonies: Diversity & Inclusion at Texas State University*, as well as co-presenting the paper "The Role of Writing Centers in Decolonizing Academia" with fellow MARC student and close friend Sarah Rose. This presentation at the Midwest Modern Language Association will discuss anti-racist tutoring in writing centers.

Olivia's graduate school experience has encouraged her to learn about and appreciate Latinx culture and activism. She looks up to queer Xicana feminist author and activist Gloria Anzaldúa, who also originated in the Rio Grande Valley. She hopes to one day teach her students about Anzaldúa's legacy. Olivia has thoroughly enjoyed her time in the MARC program. She especially values the friendships and collaborations she has been a part of over the last year. Olivia hopes her final year of graduate school will be just as gratifying.