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Tryphenia Peele-Eady
University of New Mexico

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Editor's Introduction: A Memorial Tribute to Ruth Trinidad Galván

Tryphenia Peele-Eady, *University of New Mexico*

On behalf of my colleagues at the University of New Mexico's Department of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies (LLSS), I would like to offer a few words of remembrance and in celebration of the life of Ruth Trinidad Galván. A professor in LLSS and faculty in the Educational Thought and Sociocultural Studies concentration (ETSS), as well as the associate editor and faculty sponsor of this journal, *Intersections: Critical Issues in Education*, Ruth was an esteemed leader, whose brilliance, generosity, and compassion touched the lives of all who knew her. Specializing in decolonial and global feminist epistemologies and pedagogies, globalization, and transmigration, Ruth worked with a fierce passion and critical lens, fighting for women's equality and equity for all peoples.

Born May 23, 1967 in El Paso, Texas and raised in Los Angeles, California, Ruth was daughter to two Mexican immigrant parents and sister to four younger siblings. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); a Master's degree from California State Los Angeles; and a Ph.D. in Education, Culture and Society from the University of Utah. Ruth received numerous recognitions and awards for her work over the years; among them, the American Educational Research Association (AERA)/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship, two Fulbright grants, and several awards from the University of New Mexico (UNM) for her research, teaching, mentorship, and service.

Her repertoire of work features two books, several refereed journal articles, and numerous book chapters, underscoring her real-world commitments to the education of Latinx youth and the celebration of life, learning, and criticality in communities often overlooked in the everyday discourses framing humanity. Ruth was probably best known for her book, *Women Who Stay Behind: Pedagogies of Survival in Rural Transmigrant Mexico* (2015), an ethnography of women affected by migration. Her work transformed previous thinking about historical views of poor and working-class people in Mexico. She lived a life that demanded notice and inspired others.

Ruth was a trailblazer in border and immigrant studies. Her research in Zacatecas, Mexico, called much-needed attention to immigration reform and economic recession in the U.S. and to the experiences of immigrants returning to their community of origin. "One does not merely survive domination," she wrote, "but chooses to *saciar* (sate) one's hopes and dreams in creative and joyful ways" (2015, p. 4). In short, her work is a reflection of her story, the stories she was destined to tell, and the legacy she was destined to leave behind.

She was a teacher, scholar, mother, daughter, sister, and a friend. To cherish her memory are her devoted husband, Bradley Neu, and three daughters, Xiomara, Anayansi, and Nemiliztli Ortega-Trinidad.

The UNM Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies and the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute have established a scholarship fund in her honor.¹ Plans are also underway for a special issue of *Intersections* dedicated to Ruth's legacy as a teacher and scholar, and more information will be provided in our spring 2020 issue.

In peace, in love, and in eternal solidarity—rest well, Ruth Trinidad Galván.

Reference

Galván, R. T. (2015). *Women who stay behind: Pedagogies of survival in rural transmigrant Mexico*. University of Arizona Press.

Author

Tryphenia B. Peele-Eady is Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico. Her research focuses on the Black church and the role of language, culture, and community in African American student learning. She also studies the broader relationship of social context to the academic achievement of learners from historically marginalized groups. Her email address is tbpeele@unm.edu.

¹ For more information on this scholarship fund, please visit <https://www.unmfund.org/fund/ruth-trinidad-galvan-social-and-educational-justice-scholarship/>.