



HONORARY BOARD



Cecilia Domeyko was born in Chile and spent her childhood traveling to various parts of the world with her diplomat parents. She began her career as a foreign correspondent in Washington, DC writing for Latin American magazines and newspapers. She turned to filmmaking, producing prize-winning documentaries about human rights, and the rights of women. Her work has aired in the U.S. on PBS and Univision, and internationally on ABC-Australia and Canal Plus. Her series of fiction programs for television aired on CNN-En-Español in 18 Latin American countries, and nationally in the US on Univision and Telemundo. Her novel *Sacrifice on the Border* tells the story of Yoali, a woman whose little boy is stolen when she crosses the border into the U.S. While fiction, the story is based on Cecilia's research into the plight of migrant families and talks about the issue of child trafficking on the border. A love and adventure story rolled into one, the characters each tell their own version of events, moving the storyline forward to the heartrending finale. The novel in Spanish, *Sacrificio en la frontera* was launched in Miami at Altamira Books in 2017, followed by a promotional event at the Embassy of Chile in 2019. Cecilia Domeyko holds a BA in Journalism from the Catholic University of Chile, and an MA in Film Directing from the American University in Washington, DC. The English translation edition of her novel *Sacrifice on the Border* will be published in 1922. As of 2021, she is President of the US Chapter of the World Association of Women Journalists and Writers.



Theodoro Elssaca is a poet, narrator, essayist and visual artist. His works have been translated to different languages. Among his latests works are: *El espejo humeante-Amazonas* (Fundación Iberoamericana, 2005); *Travesía del Relámpago*, a poetic anthology (Ediciones Vitruvio, Madrid, 2013); *Fuego contra hielo* (Editorial Verbum, Madrid, 2014); *Santiago bajo cero*, a bilingual edition (Bibliotheca Universalis, Bucharest, 2015). He is the recipient of the "Other World Mihai Award,"

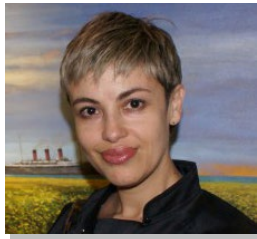
granted by the International Poetry Fund in Spain. His works have been translated to various languages.



Beatriz M. Marinello a native of Chile, is an American chess player with the title of Woman International Master (WIM), FIDE Trainer and International Chess Organizer. Currently, Ms. Marinello is the Director of the Dalton School Chess Program. She was the first woman to become President of the US Chess Federation and the first woman to become Vice President of the World Chess Federation "FIDE." Ms. Marinello is known for her work in social and educational chess, she started programs around the world to mostly support disadvantaged children. She is the President of Chess Educators, and founded the "Smart Girl Chess Program," a program that is offered in five centers for children in extreme poverty conditions around the world. Ms. Marinello began playing chess at the age of 13 and became a National Women's Champion of Chile at age 16. She organized her first national championship in Chile at age 20, and went on to organize many other international competitions. In 1990, she moved to the United States and has since represented the US in two Women's International Tournaments: in 1991 in Subotica and in 1993 in Jakarta. She also represented the United States in the 1994 Women's Chess Olympiad held in Moscow. Ms. Marinello's mission is to empower children to excel in chess and academics. In 2017, she was one of the organizers of the First World Junior Chess Championship for Disabled Children in Orlando, Florida and the First International Congress for Social and Educational Chess in Cordoba, Argentina.



Magdalena Merbilhaá Romo is Executive Vice President of Fundación Red Cultural. She is graduate from Universidad Gabriela Mistral, Chile with a degree in History and Journalism; received an MA in Education from Kinston University (London, UK) and a Certificate in International Business from Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada). She is Director of CIRCE—the Centre for Imagination in Research for Culture and Education of Simon Fraser University in Vancouver Canada. She is the Director of Red Cultural and Editor of its magazine. She teaches English Literature at University Finis Terrae. She also served as the Vice President of the Chilean Australian Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Merbilhaá is a member of the Editorial Board of *The Mistral Review*—the journal of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc.



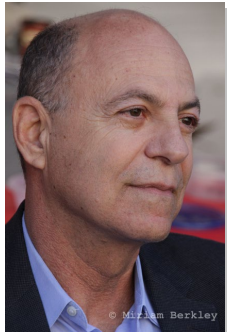
Maria Fernanda Meza a native of Chile, is Project Manager at *El Mercurio*. Previously, she was Executive Producer at Cuarto Be, an Arts & Cultural Management studio oriented to support Chilean artists careers and manage film, dance, music, literature & cultural heritage projects, considering implications of local policies, sustainability, arts diversity and social inclusion, copyright and the role of the arts in relation to cultural identity. She currently oversees Fundraising, Grant Writing, and a direct to consumer/audience's portfolio related to Education through Arts. She has previously worked for Florida Grand Opera, New York City Opera, Salzburger Festspiele, Delta Airlines, Miami Concert Association, Fundación Beethoven, Universidad de Chile, El Corte Inglés, ANS Records and Warner, among others companies. She is a member of the International Dance Council CID, Paris, a non-governmental organization founded in 1973 within the UNESCO headquarters in France, and the official umbrella organization for all forms of dance in all countries of the world. As an active community volunteer, she is committed to develop local & international relationships for Factoría de Arte Santa Rosa, non-for-profit contemporary art entity, and Fundación María Ayuda, organization that restores dignity to abused and neglected children.



Nara Milanich is Associate Professor of Latin American History at Barnard College, Columbia University. Is author of *Children of Fate: Childhood, Class, and the State in Chile, 1850-1930* (Duke, 2009), which explores the historical connections between family, law and social inequality in modern Chile; the book will soon be published in its Spanish edition. Is co-editor of *The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Duke, 2013). Professor Milanich teaches a variety of interdisciplinary courses in law, politics, gender and inequality in Latin America. She has chaired Master's Program in Latin American Studies based at the Institute for Latin American Studies and works closely with Columbia's Global Center in Santiago. Her scholarship has been supported by the Fulbright Commission for Educational Exchange, the Social Science Research Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Council of Learned Societies, UNESCO, and the Ministry of Education of Chile.



Dr. Martin C. Taylor holds a B.A. in Spanish and Latin American Studies from New York University; an M.A. in Spanish and a Ph.D. in Hispanic Languages and Literatures from UCLA. He was a professor of Spanish at the universities of Michigan, Berkeley, and Nebraska, and was Dean of the Panama Center of Nova Southeastern University. He has researched the work of Ruben Dario and Gabriela Mistral. He has authored *Gabriela Mistral's Religious Sensibility* (Univ. of California Press), translated to Spanish by Editorial Gredos, Madrid. He revised and expanded this work into *Gabriela Mistral's Struggle with God and Man* (McFarland, 2012).



David Unger is a Guatemalan-born novelist and translator, was awarded his country's Miguel Angel Asturias National Literature Prize for 2014 even though he writes exclusively in English and lives in the U.S. His fifth novel *The Mastermind* (New York: Akashic Books, 2016) was published in July of 2015 by Planeta México under the title *El manipulador*. In 2013, *El precio de la fuga* (Guatemala: F y G Editores) was published, and in 2012 CIDCLI published in Mexico, his children's book *La Casita*. In 2011, he published two novels *Para Mi, Eres Divina* [*In My Eyes, You Are Beautiful*] (Random House Mondadori, Mexico) and *The Price of Escape* (New York: Akashic Books). He is also the author of *Ni chicha, ni limonada* (Guatemala: F y G Editores), and *Life in the Damn Tropics* (Wisconsin University Press, 2004). Unger has been a featured writer in book festivals in San Juan, Miami, Los Angeles, Guatemala City, Oaxaca, Bogota, Lima, La Paz, and Guadalajara.



Pedro Pablo Zegers Blachet holds a degree in Literature with a Major in General Literature from the University of Chile. Until April 2023 he was Director of the National Library of Chile—during which time he oversaw the publication of the *Collected Works of Gabriela Mistral* (8 vols.) in 2019. Previously, he was director of the Gabriela Mistral Museum in Vicuña and Director of the Author's Archives at the National Library of Chile where he was responsible for the cataloguing and digitalization of Mistral Legacy/Archives donated to Chile in 2007 by Doris Atkinson. He was Managing Editor of “Mapocho” magazine published by the National Library. He has dedicated a great part of his work study and research the life of Gabriela Mistral, which has resulted in a number of editorial and promotional projects; has edited more than thirteen books among them: *Religious Poetry, Gabriela Mistral* (2013); *The France of Gabriela Mistral* (2013); *Thinking about America, Gabriela Mistral* (2013); *Animal Kingdom: Gabriela Mistral's children's prose and poetry*, 3 volumes (2014); *Yin Yin, the nephew of Gabriela Mistral*, (2015), *Poetry of education* (2015). Is author of numerous collaborations on this topic in national and international magazines. Has participated in numerous conferences held in the Americas, Europe and the United States. He has been a member of the Honorary board of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc. and is also a member of the Editorial Board of *The Mistral Review*—the journal of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, Inc.

In 2018, the Government of Chile awarded him the grade of Knight of the Order of Educational and Cultural Merit Gabriela Mistral. As of 2021 he is a ‘Number member’ of the Academia Chilena de la Lengua. In 2022, Universidad Veracruzana of Mexico, awarded him the “Medal of Merit” for his contribution to the humanities. As the world-renowned Mistral scholar, he is now devoted to continue to research, study, publish and present conferences on Gabriela Mistral.

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