

Sonia E. Alvarez is Leonard J. Horwitz Professor of Latin American Politics and Studies and Director of the Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She received her B.A. in Government and Latin American Studies from Smith College and her Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University. She came to UMass from the University of California at Santa Cruz, where she taught Politics and Latin American Studies for nearly two decades. Alvarez is the author of *Engendering Democracy in Brazil: Women's Movements in Transition Politics* and co-editor of *The Making of Social Movements in Latin America: Identity, Strategy, and Democracy*, with Arturo Escobar and *Cultures of Politics/Politics of Cultures: Re-visioning Latin American Social Movements*, with Evelina Dagnino and A. Escobar. Her writings on feminisms, social movements, and democratization have appeared in *Signs*, *Feminist Studies*, *Revista Estudos Feministas*, *Estudios Latinoamericanos*, *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *Debate Feminista*, *Meridians*, *Revista Mora*, and numerous edited collections and social movement publications. Professor Alvarez is completing a new book, entitled *Feminism in Movement: Cultural Politics, Policy Advocacy, and Transnational Activism in Latin America*, and co-editing three new anthologies: *Decentering Latin American Studies*, with Arturo Arias and Charles R. Hale; *Translocalities/Translocalidades: Feminist Politics of Translation in the Latin/a Américas*, with the Claudia de Lima Costa, Verónica Feliu, Macarena Gómez-Barris, Rebecca Hester, Norma Klahn, and Millie Thayer, with the assistance of Cruz C. Bueno; and *Interrogating the Civil Society Agenda: Social Movements, Civic Participation and Democratic Innovation in Latin America*, with Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Agustín Laó-Montes, Jeff Rubin and Millie Thayer.

In Brazil, she has been Fulbright visiting professor in the Department of Political Science and the Inter-Disciplinary Graduate Program in Social Sciences at the State University of Campinas and visiting scholar at the Center for Philosophy and Human Sciences at the Federal University of Santa Catarina. Between 1993 and 1996, Professor Alvarez coordinated the Rights and Social Justice Program for the Brazil Office of the Ford Foundation. Between 1998 and 2004, she was director and co-principal investigator in the "Hemispheric Dialogues" Program at the University of California at Santa Cruz, a project aimed at bridging Latin American and Latina/o Studies through curricular innovation and action-research partnerships; and was co-founder of "The Transnational Feminist Politics of Translation in the Latin/a Américas," a Greater Bay Area research group of Chicana/Latina and Latin American(ist) feminist scholars. Alvarez also served on the national advisory panel of the Ford Foundation's "Crossing Borders, Rethinking Area Studies" Initiative (1998-2001) and is on the editorial advisory boards of several feminist and Latin American studies journals in the US, Europe, and Brazil. From November 2004 to May 2006, she served as President of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), the foremost professional organization in the world of individuals and institutions engaged in research and teaching on Latin America, the Caribbean, and its people throughout the Americas.

Alvarez is a feminist, anti-racist and alter-globalist activist who has been involved with a variety of regional and global movement struggles since the late 1970s, while also studying them. Her current research and political interests include place-based perspectives on global social movements, the articulation of race and anti-racist politics among feminists and other progressive social movements in Brazil and other Latin American settings and the “sidestreaming” of feminist discourses and practices into parallel social movement/civil society spaces like grassroots women’s organizations, the World Social Forum, the MST, CUT, and other popular movements.