

Council for International Teaching and Research

GLOBAL SCHOLARS

2011-12 Princeton Global Scholar Rafael Rojas

Born in Cuba and educated in the Soviet Union and Mexico, Rafael Rojas is a distinguished Caribbean historian and cultural critic, an engaging teacher, and a brilliant scholar of the history and politics of Latin America, Mexico, and Cuba.

The author of more than 15 books and 100 scholarly essays, Rojas has won numerous international awards for his work, including the Matías Romero Prize (2001), the Anagrama Essay Award (2006), and the inaugural Isabel de Polanco Essay Award (2009). He is an elegant and persuasive writer with a masterful grasp of the intertwined histories —

political, cultural, and literary — of the Caribbean and its diaspora. His books are widely recognized as having helped to shape and define an intellectual heritage that is one of the most important and exciting fields in Latin American studies today.

Rojas is based in Mexico City's Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), one of Mexico's most prominent centers for research and higher education in the social sciences. His academic interests frequently take him to other parts of the world: he has taught and lectured at universities in Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Spain, and the United States, and held visiting professorships at the universities of Texas-Austin and Columbia and, in 2007, at Princeton.

As a Princeton Global Scholar, Rojas is a source of unique research and study opportunities for undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Cultures and in the Program in Latin American Studies, as well as in an array of related fields from the Center for African American Studies to the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs. He is an inspiring teacher, introducing undergraduates to Cuba's rich modern intellectual and political history and guiding their senior thesis work. He contributes to several graduate programs where his erudite perspectives benefit graduate students in Caribbean and Latin American studies, and he is an advisor for those whose doctoral research focuses on Cuban and Mexican intellectual history. He also supervises an interdisciplinary working group of graduate students and faculty examining Caribbean political cultures and globalization.

Over time, Rojas's Global Scholar affiliation will significantly advance the University's international vision, allowing Princeton to forge important ties with CIDE in Mexico, leverage new connections within Cuba's intellectual circles, and build strong partnerships among the flourishing academic communities in Cuba, Mexico, and the Hispanic Caribbean.



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