



(klá-ve)

counterdisciplinary notes on race, power and the state

Mission Statement

The beat at the heart of Latin music is clave, a rhythm brought with the African diaspora from the Yoruba, Congo and other West African peoples to the Spanish-colonized Caribbean. The clave rhythm has been described as “the keystone, the wedge-shaped stone placed at the top of an arch which locks all the other stones in place.” In addition to the musical meaning of clave, the word can also mean “key,” “the foundation of a matter,” “the heart of the matter.”

CLAVE is published jointly by LatCrit, Inc., a progressive movement of legal scholars, and the Universidad InterAmericana de Puerto Rico, Facultad de Derecho. CLAVE explores the ways in which the state, through law, furthers the production of national, gendered, and racialized subjects. CLAVE also explores the many modes of resistance to state power, symbolized by the steady beat of the clave through colonialism, imperialism, and diaspora. In accordance with the goals and methods of LatCrit, Inc., CLAVE seeks to establish conversations that disrupt the traditional boundaries of nation, discipline, and academic hierarchy. We welcome articles from disciplines such as cultural studies, American studies, history, sociology, and anthropology as well as from “law proper.”

Born in the United States, and heir to the critical race theory, feminist theory, and queer legal theory movements, Latino/a Critical Theory (“LatCrit”) examines the Latino/a legal subject as a project of diaspora, colonialism, racialization, and heteropatriarchy, and as a site for resistance to these forces as well. As an intellectual movement, LatCrit theory is characterized by its anti-subordination and anti-essentialist ethics. As an organization, LatCrit, Inc, seeks to promote four basic aims of critical legal theory: (1) the production of critical and counterdisciplinary knowledge; (2) the promotion of democracy and equality; (3) the expansion and interconnection of antistubordination struggles; and (4) the cultivation of community and coalition among outsider scholars, lawyers, activists, and other policymakers. Toward these ends, LatCrit, Inc. sponsors conferences, colloquia, student programs on critical theory, and other insurgent interventions in the United States and elsewhere.

Features

CLAVE publishes the following features:

1. Articles and essays concerning law, culture, and subordination in the Americas and elsewhere, from various disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and counterdisciplinary perspectives.