

Lázaro J. González

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Documentary filmmaker, curator, and educator with over a decade of experience producing internationally screened films on Cuban queer identity, diaspora, and counterarchives. Films distributed in the U.S. and Canada and recognized at festivals including Yale, Barcelona, Havana, and the Sundance Institute Documentary Workshop. Experienced instructor and program builder across film production, media studies, and community-based audiovisual practice. Fluent in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. Candidate, Film and Media Studies.

Expected Spring 2026

University of Connecticut

Master of Arts, Literatures, Cultures, and Languages.

2020

International School of Film and Television (EICTV), Cuba

Certificate, Documentary Cinema and Screenwriting.

2016

University of Havana, Cuba

B.A., Journalism.

2014

EXPERIENCE

Acting Instructor and Teaching Assistant

2020 – 2025

UC Berkeley, Film and Media Department

Berkeley, CA

- Designed and taught undergraduate courses in film production (introductory and upper-level) and film studies, including original curricula on Latin American cinemas, documentary representation, and Caribbean counterarchives.
- Served as sole instructor of record for Film 185 (Intermediate Moving Image Production), Film R1B, and Film 85 sections across multiple semesters.
- Developed and taught Film R1B: Sexile and Counterarchives of the Caribbean (Fall 2025) and Film R1B: The Avowal of Difference in Latin American Cinemas (Spring 2026).

Videographer

2022 – 2024

Berkeley's Gender and Equity Center (GEneq)

Berkeley, CA

- Produced video content for the university's Gender and Equity Center, documenting programs and community initiatives.

Filmmaker

2020 – 2025

Ballet22

San Francisco, CA

- Created documentary film content for Ballet22, a contemporary dance company.

Executive Producer and Co-Founder

2017 – 2018

Encuadre, Cuban Audiovisual Production Network

Cuba

- Co-founded and led Cuba's independent audiovisual production network, building infrastructure for independent filmmakers across the island.
- Founded Confluencias del Lente (Confluences of the Lens), a documentary exchange program connecting filmmakers between the U.S. and Cuba (2015-2017).

Professor and Multimedia Journalist

2015 – 2017

El Toque / RNW Media

Cuba / Netherlands

- Produced multimedia journalism and led audiovisual education workshops across Cuba for an international media organization (Cuba-Holland collaboration).

Head of Communications

2014 – 2016

EICTV (International School of Film and Television)

Cuba

- Led the communications department for one of Latin America's most prestigious film schools.
- Served as writer-editor of *Enfoco* magazine and editor of *Bisiesto*, the publication of *Muestra de Cine Joven ICAIC*.

PROJECTS

Parole

2024 – 2025

Director

- Directed 25-minute documentary screened at 9 festivals internationally, including Best Short Film at the Latino and Iberian Film Festival at Yale (2025), Instar Film Festival, Havana Film Festival, Seattle Latino Film Festival, San Francisco Latino Film Festival, and the Society for Visual Anthropology Film and Media Festival.

Sexilio

2022

Director

- Directing 70-minute documentary feature (work in progress); selected for the Sundance Institute Documentary Workshop (Miami) and Official Selection, Festival Instar.

Villa Rosa

2015 – 2018

Director

- Directed 50-minute documentary-fiction hybrid screened at 14 festivals across Europe, Latin America, and the U.S., winning the Audience Award at the Barcelona International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (2017) and Best Documentary at the Latino and Iberian Film Festival at Yale (2018).

Masks

2013 – 2015

Director

- Directed 35-minute documentary distributed in the U.S. and Canada by Icarus Films; screened at festivals including Vermont International Film Festival and Brattleboro International Film Festival; won multiple awards including the National Cultural Journalism Award 'Rubén Martínez Villena' (Cuba, 2015).

CERTIFICATIONS

- Artist in Residence, Casa Ojalá, Mexico City (2025)
- Artist in Residence, Queen's University Vulnerable Media Lab, Ontario, Canada (2023)
- Sundance Documentary Workshop, Sundance Institute, Miami (2016)

AWARDS & HONORS

- Best Short Film, Latino and Iberian Film Festival at Yale (2025) — Parole
- Audience Award, Barcelona International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (2017) — Villa Rosa
- Best Documentary, Latino and Iberian Film Festival at Yale (2018) — Villa Rosa
- National Cultural Journalism Award 'Rubén Martínez Villena', Cuba (2015) — Masks
- Best Documentary, Audiovisual Journalism Contest 'Ania Pino in memoriam' (2015) — Masks

SKILLS

Languages: Spanish (native), English, Portuguese

Film Production: Documentary direction, screenwriting, video production, editing

Publishing: Film criticism, multimedia journalism, editorial management

CURATORIAL WORK

- Curator, Archipiélago Fílmico: Cuerpos Proscritos film series, Mexico City (2025)
- Curator, Cuban Cinema without Borders, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) (2024)
- Curator, The Short Documentary Films of Sara Gómez, BAMPFA (2022)
- Curator, Cine Latino film series, Center for Latin American Studies, UC Berkeley (2022)

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- Tinker Research Field Grant (2024)
- Berkeley Film and Media Research Travel Grant (2022)
- Chancellor Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley
- El Instituto Pre-doctoral Award, University of Connecticut (2019-2020)
- Crandall Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Connecticut

SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Invited Filmmaker and Guest Speaker: Yale University (MacMillan Center), Harvard University, Northwestern University, UCLA Latin American Institute, University of Edinburgh, College of Charleston, Concordia University, UC Berkeley (Film, History, and Spanish and Portuguese Departments) (2019-2025)
- Official Jury, Latino and Iberian Film Festival, Yale University (2019)