



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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José Antonio Rodríguez

José Antonio Rodríguez lives and works on the South Texas/Mexico border, where he grew up. After completing his graduate work at Binghamton University in upstate New York, he returned to the southern tip of Texas, where many of his students remind him of his own experiences—first-generation college students, ESL learners, immigrants. As a writer, translator, and academic, he is invested in the richness of what cultural theorist Gloria Anzaldúa called the “borderlands” – the geopolitical, social, and cultural space where the first world makes contact with the third. His studies in multicultural literature, translation, cultural studies, and creative writing inform his investigations of the borderlands and the ideology of the American Dream and American Exceptionalism.

His books include *The Shallow End of Sleep* and *Backlit Hour*, a finalist for the 2014 Paterson Poetry Prize. His work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The New Republic*, *The Texas Observer*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Memorious*, *Tusculum Review*, *Huizache*, the Poetry Society of America online, and elsewhere. His awards and honors include the Bob Bush Memorial Prize from the Texas Institute of Letters, the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award from *Paterson Literary Review*, the Founders’ Prize from *RHINO*, multiple nominations for the Pushcart Prize, and the Clifford D. Clark Doctoral Fellowship from Binghamton University, where he earned a Ph.D. in English and Creative Writing.

José Antonio Rodríguez also holds degrees in Biology and Theatre Arts and is assistant professor in the MFA program at The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. Learn more at www.JARodriguez.org.