

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### *Regents Communication*

#### ACTION REQUEST

**Subject:** Report of Faculty Retirement

**Action Requested:** Adoption of Retirement Memoir

**Javier Sanjinés, Ph.D.**, professor of Spanish in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2023.

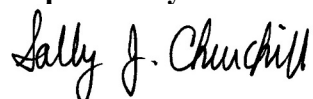
Professor Sanjinés attended the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (La Paz, Bolivia) where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 1971. He studied literary sociology at the École Pratique de Hautes Études in Paris, France, where in 1974 he also earned a master's degree in Latin American studies at the Université de Paris-III (Paris, France). After passing the Bolivian Bar Examination in La Paz in 1979, he earned his Ph.D. degree in Spanish and Portuguese in 1988 from the University of Minnesota. After faculty appointments at the Catholic University of Bolivia and the University of Maryland, he joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor of Spanish in 1998, and was promoted to associate professor in 2003, and professor in 2010.

Professor Sanjinés is a distinguished scholar of modern Latin American literature and a highly regarded specialist in the cultural politics of postcolonial societies. He was an early and important contributor to the collective project of adapting the conceptual paradigm of postcoloniality to the study of Latin America. His five single-authored books include *Literatura contemporánea y grotesco social en Bolivia* (2017), which was incorporated into the Bi-Centennial Library of the Plurinational State of Bolivia as one of the two-hundred most influential books written in XXth-century Bolivia; *Mestizaje Upside Down: Aesthetic Politics in Modern Bolivia* (2004, with a Spanish version in 2014); and *Rescaldos del pasado: Conflictos culturales en sociedades postcoloniales* (2009, with an English version, *Embers of the Past*, in 2013). In addition, he has published more than 100 articles and book chapters in the many areas of his scholarly expertise; a volume of his selected essays was published in La Paz in 2022.

Professor Sanjinés' teaching and service in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures have been exemplary. His teaching, centered on upper-division and graduate courses on a broad range of topics in Latin American literature and culture, has also included graduate proseminars for the Program in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and sophomore seminars for undergraduates. He directed a number of Ph.D. dissertations. He served on the departmental Executive Committee and on several occasions provided teaching and leadership in the university's study abroad programs.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Javier Sanjinés, professor emeritus of Spanish, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures.**

**Requested by:**



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**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2023