

Alicia Gaspar de Alba

Biography

A native of the El Paso/Juárez border, Alicia Gaspar de Alba is a Chicana writer/scholar/activist who uses prose, poetry, and theory for social change. She is a Professor of Chicana/o Studies, English, and Women's Studies at UCLA, where she also served as the Chair of the Cesar E. Chávez Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies from 2007-2010.

Alicia has published the award-winning novels, [Sor Juana's Second Dream](#) (University of New Mexico Press, 1999), which was named Best Historical Fiction by the Latino Literary Hall of Fame in 2000, and [Desert Blood: The Juárez Murders](#) (Arte Publico Press, 2005), which received both the Lambda Literary Foundation Award for Best Lesbian Mystery in 2005 and the Latino Book Award for Best English-language Mystery in 2006. The Spanish translation, [Sangre en el desierto: las muertas de Juárez](#), also won a Latino Book Award for Best Spanish-Language Mystery in 2009. St. Martin's Press released her most recent historical novel, [Calligraphy of the Witch](#), in Fall 2007. She has also published an award-winning short fiction collection, [The Mystery of Survival and Other Stories](#) (Bilingual Press, 1993), and two collections of poetry, [Beggar on the Córdoba Bridge](#) (Bilingual Press, 1989) and [La Llorona on the Longfellow Bridge: Poetry y otras móvidas](#) (Arte Publico Press, 2003). Alicia's novels have been translated into Spanish, German, and Italian.

On the academic front, Alicia has published [Chicano Art Inside/Outside the Master's House](#) (University of Texas Press, 1998), a critical study of a mainstream Chicano and Chicana art exhibition that toured the United States between 1990-1993. She is also the editor of [Velvet Barrios: Popular Culture and Chicana/o Sexualities](#) (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2003).

Alicia is married to the artist Alma Lopez, and they are one of the 18,000 legally married gay and lesbian couples in California.