Rev. Dr. Rubén Arjona

Educational Background

Ph.D., **Princeton Theological Seminary,** September 2012–May 2017
Area: Pastoral Theology
Dissertation: "The Minister as Curator of Desire: A Model of Pastoral Accompaniment with Young Mexican Men"

Master of Theology, **Princeton Theological Seminary,** September 2011–May 2012
Concentration: Pastoral Care

Master of Arts in Theological Studies, **Princeton Theological Seminary,**
Concentration: Pastoral Care September 2009–May 2011

Bachelor of Theology, **Seminario Teológico Presbiteriano de México,**
September 1993–June 1997

Teaching Certificate (English as a Foreign Language)
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México 1996

Professional Experience

Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA July 2020–present
Associate Professor of Pastoral Care

Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO June 2016–June 2020
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Care
Courses:

- Introduction to Pastoral Theology and Care
- Erik H. Erikson: Resource for Pastoral Care
- Ministry and Human Sexuality
- Why the Church?
- Caring with the Oppressed *Latinamente*
- Practical Theology
- Pastoral Care of Couples and Families

Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO July 2016–May 2017
Instructor in Pastoral Theology and Care

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ February 2013–May 2015
Teaching Assistant:

- Sexuality and the Christian Body, Robert C. Dykstra
- Pastoral Care in Congregation and Context, Sonia Waters
- Parish Leadership and the Practice of Ministry, M. Craig Barnes
- Pastoral Care of Men, Robert C. Dykstra
- Pastor as Person, Robert C. Dykstra

Comunidad Teológica de México, Mexico City 2005–2007
Instructor:
- Homiletics
- Theological English

Seminario Teológico Presbiteriano de México, Mexico City 2001–2009
Instructor:
- Calvinist Thought
- Reformed Confessions
- Homiletics
- New Testament Survey
- History of Presbyterianism in Mexico

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City 1996–1999
Instructor:
- English levels 3, 5, and 7

Basilea Center for Support and Research, Mexico City 1999–2009
Assistant Director

National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, Office of the General Assembly 2009
Board of Education, Executive Secretary

"Puerta de Salvación" Presbyterian Church, Mexico City 2008–2009
Associate Pastor

"Ammi Shadday" Presbyterian Church, Mexico City 1999–2006
Pastor

Berea Presbytery, Mexico City 2004–2006
Moderator

First Synod of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico 2003–2006
Board of Education, Director

"El Divino Redentor" Presbyterian Church, Mexico City 1995–1998
Intern

Awards and Fellowships

- Princeton Doctoral Fellowship, 2012–2016
- Hispanic Theological Initiative Consortium/Luce Fellowship, 2015–2016, 2016–2017
- Hispanic Theological Initiative Fellowship 2014–2017
- Trustees Fellowship, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2009–2016
- Presidential Scholarship, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2009–2012
- Henry James Sr. Award, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2012
- Robert P. Goodlin Award, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2011
- Goizueta Foundation Award for Academic Merit and Ministerial Excellence, Hispanic Summer Program, Princeton, NJ, 2010
- Valedictorian, Presbyterian Pan American School, 1992

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

(2026). Amalgamated Grief: The Convergence of First-, Second-, and Third-Order Suffering Within the Human Soul. *Pastoral Psychology*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11089-026-01379-8

(2026). Resisting Carelessness: Adulthood and the Virtue of Care in a Neoliberal Age. Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology, *80*, 340–351.

(2026). Forging the Solidary Self: Pastoral Care in Times of Tariffs. *Pastoral Psychology*, *75*, 153–164.

(2025). Miss Lupita, the Healer: Eriksonian Reflections on Grieving a Mother. *Pastoral Psychology, 74*, 439–452.

(2023). Matrices of Goals and Penalties: Revisiting the Need for Pastoral Care with Boys and Men. *Pastoral Psychology*, *72*, 753–764.

(2020). The Criminalization of Mexicans in Contemporary "American" Politics: A Pastoral Theological Response." *Journal of Pastoral Theology*, *30*, 20–34.

(2020). George F. Handel's "How Beautiful Are the Feet" as Transformational Object: An Autobiographical Account. *Pastoral Psychology*, *69*, 87–98.

(2019). Erik H. Erikson's *Young Man Luther*: A Classic Revisited, Again. *Pastoral Psychology*, *68*, 591–603.

(2018). You Are My Friends: Pastoral Care with Young Mexican Men. *Pastoral Psychology*, *67*, 589–610.

(2017). John Calvin on the Lord's Supper: Food, Rest, and Healing for Shivering Souls," *Pastoral Psychology*, *66*, 177–190.

(2016). The Librarian as an Image of Pastoral Care. *Pastoral Psychology*, *65*, 743–757.

(2015). William James and the Varieties of Religious and Drinking Experience: The Case of Pablo Ávila. *Pastoral Psychology*, *64*, 553–566.

(2015). Hoagies and Tacos: Food and Men's Unquenchable Hunger. *Pastoral Psychology*, *64*, 297–310.

(2013). A Time to Sing and a Time to Dance: Activating Hope and Wisdom. *Pastoral Psychology*, *62*, 781–790.

Book Chapters

(2025). You Are My Friends, Pastoral Care with Young Mexican Men. In R. C. Dykstra & R. LaMothe (Eds.), *Valor and Vulnerability: Pastoral Explorations of Intimacy, Grief, and Resilience among Boys and Men* (pp. 158–187). Wipf & Stock.

(2023). *Ajo, limón y miel (Garlic, lime, and honey)*: Reflections from the Aztec Capital about Care in a Pandemic. In S. A. Kujawa-Holbrook & K. B. Montagno (Eds.), *Injustice and the Care of Souls: Taking Oppression Seriously in Pastoral Care,* 2nd ed. (pp. 380–393). Fortress Press.

(2020). A Spiritually Integrative Digital Pedagogy (co-authored with C. Doehring). In D. W. Stephens & K. Ott (Eds.), *Teaching Sexuality and Religion in Higher Education: Embodied Learning, Trauma Sensitive Pedagogy, and Perspective Transformation* (pp. 127–143). Routledge.

(2010). Calvino, el placer y 'la buena vida.' En G. Zijlstra et al. (Eds.), *Calvino y la teología reformada en América Latina: un panorama* (pp. 169–171). Colombia: AIPRAL/CUR.

(2006). El desafío del discernimiento: la fe ante la coyuntura social y política en México. En R. Krüger et al. (Eds.), *Vida plena para toda la creación: iglesia, globalización liberal y justicia económica* (pp. 157–161). Argentina: AIPRAL/ISEDET.

Other Publications

(2023). Review of Jay Paul Hinds' *A Gift Grows in the Ghetto: Reimagining the Spiritual Lives of Black Men*. *Pastoral Psychology*, 72, 465–467.

(2021). Review of Gene Fowler's *Church Abuse of Clergy: A Radical New Understanding*. *Interpretation*, *75*, 357–358.

(2021). El sacerdocio universal de los creyentes en el Nuevo Testamento. En *El Fanal: El sacerdocio universal de los creyentes* (pp. 65–105). México: Publicaciones El Faro.

(2019). Somos remeros: Heinrich Bullinger y el ministerio pastoral. *El Faro*, septiembre–octubre, pp. 17–20.

(2015). Review of Pamela Cooper-White's *Braided Selves: Collected Essays on God, Multiplicity, and Persons*. *Scottish Journal of Theology*, *68*, 119–120.

(2009). Edited *El Fanal: carismatismo y espiritualidad reformada.* México: Publicaciones El Faro.

(2009). Translated Edward Dommen's chapter, Calvin and the environment: Calvin's views examined through the prism of present-day concerns, and especially of sustainable development. *El Faro*, mayo–junio, pp. 76–83.

(2006). *Volver a la mesa: siete estudios en torno a la Cena del Señor.* México: Primer Sínodo de la Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de México.

(2001). *De la sumisión a la revolución: la influencia de Calvino en el desarrollo del protestantismo francés.* México: Centro Basilea de Investigación y Apoyo.

(1996). Breaking the Chains of Injustice: Mexico. *Reformed World, 46*, 78–85.

Papers Presented at Professional Meetings

"Pastoral Care in Times of Tariffs." Paper presented to the Group on Pastoral Theology with Men and Boys. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, May 28–30, 2025.

"Miss Lupita, the Healer: Eriksonian Reflections on Grieving a Mother." Paper presented to the Group on Pastoral Theology with Men and Boys. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, May 29–31, 2024.

"The Self at the Dentist's Chair: Eriksonian Reflections on Social Justice and the Care of Souls." Paper presented to the Group on Pastoral Theology with Men and Boys. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, June 1–3, 2023.

"Matrices of Goals and Penalties: Revisiting the Need for Pastoral Care with Boys and Men." Paper presented to the Group on Pastoral Theology with Men and Boys. Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, June 1–3, 2022.

"Spiritually Integrative Digital Pedagogy." Paper co-presented with Carrie Doehring to the Group for New Directions in Pastoral Theology Conference. Lake Tahoe, Nevada, September 2019.

"The Criminalization of Mexicans in Contemporary 'American' Politics: A Pastoral Theological Response." Plenary address delivered to the Society for Pastoral Theology. Denver, June 13, 2019.

"George F. Handel's 'How Beautiful Are the Feet' as Transformational Object: An Autobiographical Account." Paper presented to the Group for New Directions in Pastoral Theology Conference. Princeton Theological Seminary, October 2018.

"Erik H. Erikson's *Young Man Luther*: A Classic Revisited, Again." Paper presented to the Group on Pastoral Theology with Men and Boys. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, May 23–25, 2018.

"You Are My Friends: Pastoral Care with Young Mexican Men." Paper presented to the Group on Pastoral Theology with Men and Boys. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, May 31–June 2, 2017.

"Being a Mexican Man: Stereotypes and Perspectives." Paper presented to the Group on Pastoral Theology with Men and Boys. Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, June 1–3, 2016.

"The Librarian as Image of Pastoral Care." Paper presented to the Group for New Directions in Pastoral Theology Conference. Princeton Theological Seminary, October 2015.

"William James and the Varieties of Religious and Drinking Experience: The Case of Pablo Ávila." Paper presented to the Group for New Directions in Pastoral Theology Conference. Princeton Theological Seminary, October 2014.

"Volver a la mesa: Contra la marginación, privatización y reducción de la Cena del Señor." Paper presented at the Reformed Theology Colloquium, Seminario Teológico Presbiteriano de México. Mexico City, November 2003.

Other Courses Taught (2021–2022)

"Sufrimiento y duelo en perspectiva pastoral," Four 5-hour virtual sessions, Seminario Teológico Presbiteriano de México, April–May, 2022.

"Sexualidad, Biblia y pastoral," Six 2-hour virtual sessions, Leadership Institute, Union Presbyterian Seminary, co-taught with Gabriela Miranda-García, April-May, 2022.

"Psicología pastoral familiar," Six 3-hour virtual sessions, Comunidad Teológica de México, September–October, 2022.

"Acompañamiento pastoral," Three 3-hour virtual sessions, Instituto Kairos, State of Mexico, February 2021.

Other Recent Presentations (2020–2025)

Guest preacher/teacher at Olivet Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, VA, October 5, 2025.

"Presbyterians Speaking in Tongues," a sermon preached at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, June 8, 2025.

"Lay Pastoral Care," Three Sunday School lessons, Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, May 2024.

"Migration, Theology, and Pastoral Care," organizer and panelist, seminar for pastors of Latin American Heritage, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina, April 12–13, 2024.

"Mental Health and Preaching," an online panel organized by the Bridge for Early Career Preachers, April 9, 2024.

"The Future of the Church: Three Pastoral Theological Themes," presentation given to the Fellowship of St James, Richmond, Virginia, March 12, 2024.

"Where Are *You*, Micah?" a sermon preached at Watts Chapel, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, October 4, 2023.

"Jesus Serves Breakfast," a sermon preached at Byrd Presbyterian Church, Goochland, Virginia, April 13, 2023.

"The Minister as Prophet and Pastor," New Hope Presbytery Retreat, New Hope Camp & Conference Center, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, March 7, 2023.

"Justa: Precursor of the Church Universal," Groover Fund Preacher, Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Maryland, October 2, 2022.

"On the Variety of Healing Experiences in Scripture," sermon preached at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia, July 3, 2022.

"Paul Pruyser: The Aging Process as Forward Movement," lecture, United Methodist Church UPSEm alumni meeting, Hampton, Virginia, June 17, 2022.

"Eriksonian Perspectives on Healthy Aging," Sunday School adult education lessons, First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia, May 15 and 22, 2022.

"Llamados a perdonar," virtual sermon preached at Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana Puerta de Salvación, Mexico City, April 15, 2022.

"Semáforo verde: tareas pastorales ante la nueva normalidad," virtual lecture, Presbytery of Chihuahua, Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, May 29, 2021.

"Juan Calvino como pastor," and "Reflexiones en torno a la mesa del Señor," virtual lectures, Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana Dios con Nosotros, Mexico City, October 26 and 28, 2021.

"Juan Calvino, misionero y pastor," virtual lecture, Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana El Divino Redentor, Toluca, Mexico, October 28, 2021.

"Sanadores heridos," virtual lecture, First Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Mexico, October 7, 2021.

"Perspectivas eriksonianas sobre la adultez," lecture, Grupo de Reflexión Teológica, Frontera Comalapa, Chiapas, Mexico, June 11, 2021.

"Erik H. Erikson on Healthy Aging," virtual Sunday School lessons, Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ, June 2021.

"Sexo y otras intimidades," virtual workshop, Chihuahua Presbytery, March 2021.

"El amor: la mejor vestimenta navideña," virtual sermon delivered at Iglesia Presbiteriana Renovación, Cd. Juárez, Mexico, December 20, 2020.

"Radical Prayers for Dire Times." Groover Fund Preacher (virtual), Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Maryland, November 1, 2020.

"Entre el llanto y la palabra: la pastoral de Calvino ante la enfermedad y la muerte," lecture, Synod of the State of Mexico, October 29, 2020.

"Activating Hope," virtual table talk, Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Maryland, October 28, 2020.

"Pastoral Care within a Pandemic," workshop, Leadership Institute, Union Presbyterian Seminary, September 30 & October 1, 2020.

"El cuidado pastoral de la familia y la pareja en tiempos de pandemia," virtual Lecture, Juan Knox Presbytery, Toluca, Mexico, September 9, 2020.

"La dimensión terapéutica del ministerio pastoral," virtual lecture, Facultad Latinoamericana de Teología Reformada, Mexico City, September 5, 2020.

"*Therapeuo* como respuesta a la pandemia," virtual lecture, Chihuahua Presbytery, August 11, 2020.

"Tu parte en la vida," a virtual sermon preached at Iglesia Presbiteriana Renovación, July 26, 2020.

"*Imago Dei*,*"* video, *Presbyterian Outlook* curriculum, Fall 2020.

"Reimagining Community and Public Safety," panel participant, Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation and Katie Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership, July 14, 2020.

Institutional & Community Service

*Pastoral Psychology***,** Editorial Board, 2021–present

Journal of Pastoral Theology, Editorial Board, 2020–2024

Volunteer Pastoral/Spiritual Care Provider

- Provide pastoral and vocational accompaniment to seminary students
- Offer in-person accompaniment (e.g., grief support, life transitions, premarital counseling) to local care seekers and virtual care to care seekers in other locations.

Volunteer Grant Writer for REAL Life, Richmond, VA, 2024

- Wrote a successful grant proposal that secured funding from the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church Endowment.

Volunteer Interpreter

- Provided real-time interpretation between Spanish and English-speaking individuals in committee meetings (Presbytery of Milwaukee, 2024; Salem Presbytery, 2025)

UPSem, Co-Chair, Department of Practical Theology & Christian Education, 2024–2025

UPSem, Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, 2023–2025

Hispanic Scholars Program, UPSem's Representative to the Board, 2021–2025

UPSem, Advisory Council, Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center (GMC), 2020–present

UPSem, Committee on Student Life and Vocation, 2023–2025

UPSem, Charlotte Practical Theology Search Committee

UPSem, ATS Reaffirmation Sub-Committee # 2, 2020–2021

UPSem, Committee on Academic Programs (CAP), 2020–2023

UPSem-AETH Dialogue Committee, 2020–2021

UPSem-Comunidad Teológica de México Dialogue Committee, 2020–2021

Denver Presbytery, Cultivation and Innovation Task Force, March 2019–May 2020.

Iliff School of Theology, Director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral and Spiritual Care, January–May 2020.

Iliff School of Theology, Faculty Personnel Committee, September 2018–May 2020.

Iliff School of Theology, Curriculum Committee, September 2016–May 2018

Iliff School of Theology, Search Committee, September 2017–February 2018

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW), Consultations on Bilingual Spanish-English Congregational Singing, 2014–2016.

Princeton Theological Seminary, International Student Orientation Program Coordinator, August 2015.

Seminary Council on Institutional Diversity, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2014.

Mec por la Equidad México, World Student Christian Federation, Coordinator, 2003.

Professional Development

Trauma & Spirituality Webinar 2, Association of Theological Schools, February 15, 2024.
Workshop for Early Career Latinx Religion Faculty, Wabash Center, 2020–2021

Consulta de Teología Práctica, Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana, marzo–abril 2021.

Suicide Prevention Training, University of Denver, October 21, 2019.

Pre-Tenure Faculty and Ph.D. Candidate Seminar, Center for the Study of Latino Christianity and Religion, Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX, March 9, 2018.

ATS Roundtable Seminar for Newly Appointed Faculty, Chicago, IL, October 6–8, 2017.

Teaching Workshop for HTI, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Crawfordsville, IN, March 4–6, 2016.

Hispanic Theological Initiative Summer Workshop, July 2015.

Hispanic Theological Initiative Summer Workshop, July 2014.

Foundations for Teaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2012–2014.

Languages

Spanish, English

French, Portuguese (reading knowledge)