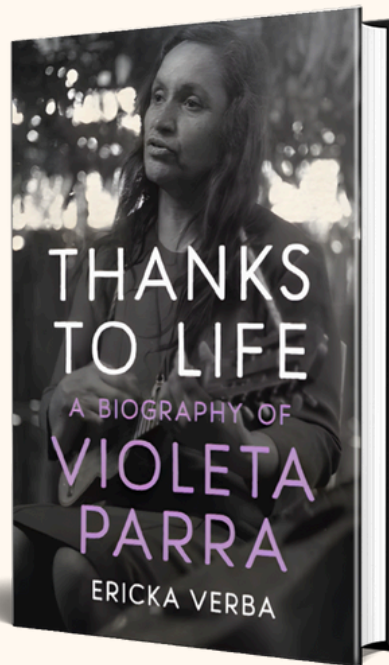


MEDIA KIT



Ericka Kim Verba

Author / Professor / Musician



@ericka.verba



Ericka Verba

erickaverba.com

BIOGRAPHY

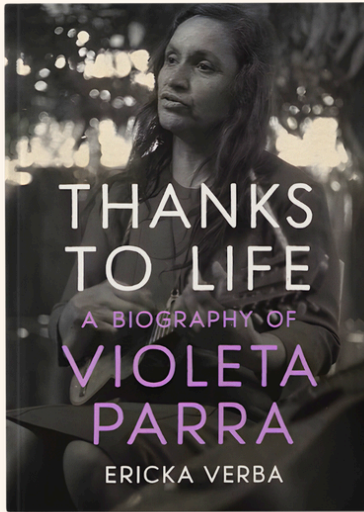


Ericka Verba is Director and Professor of Latin American Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. Her research interests include the cultural Cold War, the role of music in social movements, and the intersection of gender and class politics in twentieth-century Latin America. She has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Mellon Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the Fulbright, and the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. She is a founding member of SCALAS (Southern California Association of Latin American Studies) and the recipient of the E. Bradford Burns Award for service to the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies.

She is the author of the book *Thanks to Life: A Biography of Violeta Parra*. Her interest in Violeta Parra dates back to her early teens in the 1970s when she became friends with a Chilean family of musicians and artists who taught Verba her first Violeta Parra songs and guided her political awakening to the brutality of the Pinochet dictatorship and the role of the US government in installing and supporting it. As a musician and founding member of the US-based New Song groups Sabiá and Desborde, she has been performing Parra's music since 1976. In 1980, she wrote her undergraduate honors senior thesis on Parra's autobiography in verse. In 1996, She was the musical director and arranger for a tribute concert to Violeta Parra, supported by an Artists in the Community grant from the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department and recorded and released as Desborde, *Tribute Concert to Violeta Parra*. As a professor of Latin American History since 2004, she has welded her research on the history of women in Chile with her interest in Parra to acquire a deeper understanding of the social context and gender dynamics that shaped Parra's life. Suffice to say, Verba's book represents the culmination of a decades-long curiosity about Violeta Parra and engagement with her work.

THANKS TO LIFE

A Biography of Violeta Parra



Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press

Publication Date: January 14, 2025

Price: Hardcover \$99.00 / Paperback \$34.95

ISBN-13: 978-1469682945/978-1469682952

“A stunning achievement. This comprehensive analysis of Parra's life provides an unparalleled opportunity to appreciate one of Latin America's greatest artists. *Thanks to Life* is an outstanding piece of biographical work on a world-class artist whose legacy continues to shape Latin American music and culture.” —**Heidi Tinsman, author of *Buying into the Regime: Grapes and Consumption in Cold War Chile and the United States***

PRAISE FOR
Thanks to Life

“This intimate portrait of Chile's iconic musical artist takes the reader through a rollicking narrative that crisscrosses continents, lovers, and ideological borders of the Cultural Cold War.” —**Eric Zolov, author of *The Last Good Neighbor: Mexico in the Global Sixties***

“The first comprehensive biography of Violeta Parra in English and the first to look at her life from a feminist, decolonial, and critical perspective.” —**Juan Pablo Gonzalez, author of *Thinking about Music from Latin America***

“Finally, a definitive biography of one of the most consequential global artists of the twentieth century.” —**Karin Roseblatt, author of *The Science and Politics of Race in Mexico and the United States, 1910-1950***

“A deeply moving biography and provocative meditation on the production and uses of authenticity.” —**Matthew Karush, author of *Musicians in Transit: Argentina and the Globalization of Popular Music***

Chilean musician and artist Violeta Parra (1917-1967) is an inspiration to generations of artists and activists across the globe. Her music is synonymous with resistance, and it animated both the Chilean folk revival and the protest music movement Nueva Cancion (New Song). Her renowned song "Gracias a la vida" has been covered countless times, including by Joan Baez, Mercedes Sosa, and Kacey Musgraves. A self-taught visual artist, Parra was the first Latin American to have a solo exhibition at the *Museum of Decorative Arts* in the Louvre. In this remarkable biography, Ericka Verba traces Parra's radical life and multifaceted artistic trajectory across Latin America and Europe and on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Drawing on decades of research, Verba paints a vivid and nuanced picture of Parra's life. From her modest beginnings in southern Chile to her untimely death, Parra was an exceptionally complex and talented woman who exposed social injustice in Latin America to the world through her powerful and poignant songwriting. This examination of her creative, political, and personal life, flaws and all, illuminates the depth and agency of Parra's journey as she invented and reinvented herself in her struggle to be recognized as an artist on her own terms.

RELATED WORKS



PUBLICATIONS

- "Violeta Parra: Her Life, Work, and Legacy." In the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History (2021).
- "'Une Chilienne à Paris': Violeta Parra, auténtica cosmopolita del siglo veinte." *Artelogie* 13 (2019).
- "Violeta Parra and the Chilean Folk Revival of the 1950s." In Patricia Vilches (ed.), *Mapping Violeta Parra's Cultural Landscapes*. Palgrave Macmillan (2018).
- "Back in the Days When She Sang Mexican Songs on the Radio...Before Violeta Parra was Violeta Parra." In Lorna Dillon (ed.), *Violeta Parra: Life and Work*. Tamesis Books (2017).
- "To Paris and Back: Violeta Parra's Transnational Performance of Authenticity." *The Americas*, 70:2 (October 2013).

AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

National:

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2013-2014
National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Award, 2013-2014 (declined)
Mellon Fellow in the Humanities, 1988-1990 and 1993-1994
Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Fellowship for Area Studies, 1991-1992
Fulbright Full Grant - Institute of International Education, 1991-1992

Regional:

E. Bradford Burns Award for service to the Pacific Coast Council on Latin America Studies, 2007
Artist in the Community Grant, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, 1995

University-based:

California State University, Los Angeles

College of Natural and Social Sciences, Research and Scholarship Grant, Fall 2020

California State University, Dominguez Hills

University Leaves and Honors Committee, Sabbatical Leave, Fall 2012
University Research, Scholarship, Creative Activities Awards Program Committee
Summer Fellowship, Summer 2009
Center for Teaching and Learning "Travel to Present Research or Scholarly/Creative Project Results Grant," 2006, 2007, and 2009
Emeritus Faculty Association Faculty Legacy Fund Research Grant, Summer 2008

University of California, Los Angeles

Center for the Study of Women Graduate Student Travel Grant, 1996
Mabel Wilson Richards Scholarship, 1995-1996
Research Small Grant, Latin American Center, 1993-1994
Dissertation Fellowship, History Department, 1992-1993

Brown University

Albert A. Bennett Prize for Excellence in Latin American Studies, 1981
William Leopold Fitcher Premium in Spanish, 1980

For media inquiries contact:

Nanda Dyssou, Publicist
nanda@corioliscompany.com
(424)-226-6148