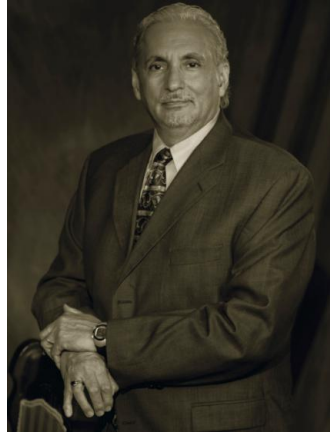


## An African American Writer, Civil Rights Warrior

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### Mario Marcel Salas Professor of Political Science

Mario Marcel Salas, an African American political leader, was born in San Antonio, Texas on July 30, 1949 to an Afro-Mexican father and a mixed race mother. He graduated from Phyllis Wheatley High School, an African American segregated school. It was soon after high school that he joined the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and became a civil rights worker for over 30 years. He was the leader of the last SNCC-Black Panther chapter in the United States in 1976, which was one of a few chapters (Dr. Charles Jones termed it a hybrid organization) modeled on the Black Panther program. As a member of SNCC Mr. Salas organized all of the Black Student Unions in San Antonio, Texas

He entered San Antonio College and graduated with two associate degrees, an Associate in Applied Science-Engineering Technology, and Liberal Arts. Soon thereafter he helped to organize Organizations United for Eastside Development (OUED), a civil and human rights group that work on various community issues ranging from police brutality to anti-apartheid activities. Salas would go on to organize **Frontline 2000** and spearhead the movement for obtaining the Texas Martin Luther King state holiday after a confrontational meeting with former Speaker of the House Gib Lewis.

He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1987. Mario Marcel Salas became an Educator for the San Antonio Independent School District and received his first Master's degree in Education in 1999, from Our Lady of the Lake University. It was during this time that he was elected to the City Council District 2, of the City of San Antonio and served two full terms. During his tenure he established by city council ordinance Tax Increment Finance Zone Board 11, which is building projects in poor neighborhoods to uplift the community.

He wrote a novel in 2000, entitled *Frankenstein: The Dawning and the Passing*. In June of 2001 Mario entered UTSA to work on his second Masters in Political Science. He received his masters in political Science in 2004, completing a master's thesis titled, "***Patterns of Persistence: Colonialist Structures and the Radical Opposition in the African American Community of San Antonio, Texas 1937-2001,***" which is slated to become available in the near future. Salas is now a full time tenure

track professor at Northwest Vista College in San Antonio teaching American and State government. Since that time he also teaches for the University of Texas at San Antonio, teaching courses in International Conflicts, American/Texas Politics, and the Politics of Mexico. He has done extensive research on African Americans in San Antonio, Texas, Afro-Mexicans, and the Black Seminoles. He married the beautiful Edwina Lacy, of Chicago, Illinois, on July 9, 1988, out of which were born Elena Patrice and Angela Christine Salas.

Mr. Salas is a prolific writer as he writes for three African American Newspapers in Texas. He speaks across the country at various colleges and universities. His theory of a “colonial matrix” offers a unique view of the historical misconceptions that have become “operational realities” in a racist society. He believes that these structures are maintained for the purpose of buttressing false narratives for the manipulation and control of African Americans and others for maintaining a racist construction of history.

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