Luis J. Rodríguez is an award-winning author and activist whose memoir about life in a gang, *Always Running*, is as popular as ever in 2023, its 30th anniversary. The UCSB Library Special Research Collections recently acquired Rodríguez’s personal papers, giving scholars and students an opportunity to see the personal and social context behind *Always Running* and Rodríguez’s other prose, poetry, and non-fiction, as well as his involvement in gubernatorial races, revolutionary organizations, and the prisoners’ rights movement. In this talk, Jo Metcalf will discuss her use of the archive as she and co-editor Ben Olguín (UCSB) create an anthology of the life and works of Rodríguez. Engaging with this collection of letters, manuscripts, contracts, newspapers, and photos exposes both the excitement and frustration that archives often hold. Ben Olguín will introduce the talk, which will be followed by a reception.