A native of the El Paso/Juarez border, Alicia Gaspar de Alba is a Chicana writer/scholar/activist who uses prose, poetry, and theory for social change. With a Ph.D. in American studies from the University of New Mexico (1994), Alicia is a Professor of Chicana/o Studies, English, and gender studies at UCLA, where she has taught since 1994, when she was hired as a founding faculty member of the Cesar E. Chavez Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies. She served as chair of Chicana/o Studies from 2007–2010, and is currently chair of the LGBT Studies Program.

Alicia has published 11 books, among them, 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 2005.

Her most recent book, [Un]framing the “Bad Woman”: Sor Juana, Malinche, Coyolxauhqui, and Other Rebels with a Cause, (released in July 2014 by University of Texas Press), is the winner of the 2015 Book Award by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education. The book compiles twenty years of Alicia’s research into the gender stereotypes by which women across time and culture have been “framed,” i.e. bad girls, bad mothers, bad sisters, bad daughters, and “mujeres malas,” with special attention to three iconic female figures of Chicana/Mexicana history. All of her books are available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. For more about Alicia’s writings, or to order copies of her books, see her website: www.aliciagaspardealba.net. She lives in Los Angeles with her wife, the visual artist, Alma Lopez, and their two feline guardians, Ruby and Luna.