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CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS



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CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

SESSION 1A

Art, Literature and Culture

Testimonio y mitología en 'Madrigal para un príncipe negro' de Nancy Morejón.

Dr. Ana Zapata-Calle, University of West Georgia

'Madrigal para un príncipe negro' (2020) es el nuevo poemario de la poeta afro-cubana Nancy Morejón, publicado por el Fondo Editorial de la Casa de las Américas de la Habana en su colección Pasamanos. Este cuaderno poético contiene una serie de composiciones que giran en torno a la figura del afro-estadounidense George Floyd. Esto genera varias posibles preguntas: ¿Por qué escribe la archiconocida poeta afro-cubana acerca del fenómeno de George Floyd? ¿Cuál es el mensaje enviado a sus lectores dentro y fuera de la isla de Cuba? ¿Está la poeta hablando en términos de raza a nivel universal, o está hablando en términos de un mensaje que quiere lanzar desde su posición como afro-cubana dentro de Cuba? No está claro.

Mi posicionamiento en este trabajo es interpretar este poemario como una denuncia del racismo en las sociedades occidentales mediante lo que propongo como poesía testimonial transnacional en tiempos de globalización económica y cultural, superando los límites creados para el género testimonial años atrás. Además, dedicaré el último apartado para examinar la mitología elegida por Morejón en la representación de Floyd como una figura universal.

Sociedad, identidad y sexualismo en Morena en rojo de Miriam Laurini

Dr. Silvia Choi, Georgia Gwinnett College

Morena en rojo es una novela que combina estratégicamente el género policial y periodístico creando un estilo de literatura comprometida que denuncia la pobreza y los abusos que sufren las mujeres en la sociedad patriarcal. Mujeres como María Crucita, Nati y Zindzi, entre otras, representan la realidad social y ellas son sólo la punta del témpano, ya que la corrupción es una cadena formada por diferentes sistemas socio-políticos como es el caso del policía Albornoz, de Lázaro el periodista, y de intermediarios como Videla, entre otros que menciona la detective-reportera. También observamos que la protagonista recorre distintos puntos geográficos en busca no sólo de información sobre María Crucita, sino también en busca del amor. Este doble propósito de búsqueda es un símbolo que alude a la búsqueda de identidad de las mujeres que viven ignoradas, abusadas y explotadas en una sociedad patriarcal y machista que viola los derechos de la mujer.

Ser afrodescendiente en Latinoamérica

Ms. America Hernandez, University of Georgia

The term “mejorar la raza” (to improve the race) is often used in Latin America in an effort to encourage someone to marry lighter-skinned than themselves in order to, not only have “better looking” children, but also to erase their own blackness. In Latin American post-colonial societies, white skin is strongly rooted in economic and social prosperity. This ideology has resulted in the tendency to classify and rank individuals according to their quality of whiteness. A variety of cultural meanings and racial ideologies are promulgated through popular culture depictions of physical appearance.

This paper analyzes physical appearance (more specifically hair), colorism in a mestizo society and religion as dynamics that have been impacted by the whitening process in Latin America. Likewise, by affecting these dynamics, adverse changes are created in intra-family relationships. In addition,

I analyze the social criticism that these dynamics have received as a response from members of the affected group, specifically Afro-descendant women of Hispanic American origin,

SESSION 1B

History, Language and Linguistics

What Was Had but Taken: How the Promises Made by Article 27 in Mexico's Constitution of 1917 Were Erased before the End of the 20th Century.

Mr. Bryan Rocha, University of North Georgia

The Mexican Revolution culminated in the promulgation of a new Mexican Constitution on February 5, 1917. Of the many Articles included in Mexico's Constitution of 1917, Article 27 addressed the issue that was most pressing for those who participated in the Mexican Revolution: Land redistribution. By conducting a materials-based research, I describe what Article 27 declares and how its enforcement led to a drastic, largely beneficial change in the material reality of the peasants, farmers, laborers, and indigenous peoples who suffered the most during the time period before the Mexican Revolution, and who made up the majority of the Revolutionary Army. Further, I explain how, in order to ease Mexico's entry into NAFTA, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari (1988-1994), with the support of overwhelming majorities in both houses of the Mexican federal legislature, erased much of the sections of Article 27 that guaranteed land redistribution for rural communities, and limited the amount of land corporations and foreign investors could own. This was especially so in areas where water and natural resources were present.

I provide details of how the deletion of said sections and the passing of NAFTA negatively impacted the agrarian communities, that were benefiting from the enforcement of Article 27 of Mexico's Constitution of 1917. Thus, my presentation is an outline of how the promises contained within a Constitution can be erased, along with the benefits it brought.

Dizque: Andean Evidentials in Contact

Mrs. Eden Stafstrom, University of Georgia/Florida State University

Quechua is a dramatically different language from Spanish, both grammatically and pragmatically. However, after centuries of contact between the two languages, these languages may be affecting one another. It is interesting to note that not all of the resulting changes are motivated by purely grammatical differences. Instead, recent research suggests that many of these changes may be motivated by the distinct pragmatic systems of each language. Expressions of evidentiality, or expressions that denote the evidence that supports a given statement, are extremely important in Quechua. Quechua speakers use suffixes such as -mi, -cha, and -si as evidentials with great frequency. On the other hand, Spanish speakers can only express evidentials in lexical chunks, and do so much less frequently.

This study not only analyzes the differences in the systems of the expression of evidentiality, but also uses an extended analysis of the word dizque in order to extend Babel's (2009) proposal of pragmatic transfer. Ultimately, the use of dizque is compared in Andean and Mexican dialects in order to prove that Quechua has indeed affected evidentiality in the Andes. A qualitative analysis further proves that the way in which dizque is used is pragmatically distinct in each dialect, and that the Andean use of the word is remarkably similar to the pragmatic functions of several Quechua evidentials.

The Modernization of Spanish Grammar: El Porvenir y el uso de la perífrasis ‘ir a + infinitivo’

Ms. Bailey Pieplow, University of North Georgia

Language is constantly evolving due to speaker preference, which means the field of linguistics must constantly adapt to these changes. These changes are often contradictory to the language standard that most people are taught in a formal setting, like that of grammar. Therefore, to address these preferences and their relation to/effect on the overall language standard, I will be providing cohesive research on the Spanish grammatical paraphrase “ir a + infinitive” in comparison with the alternative standard, the future present grammatical tense. The future itself is relative in nature and is often based on probability rather than actuality. For this reason, many languages do not have a grammatical indication of future tense. However, Spanish is one of the few languages that can portray the future grammatically in multiple different ways, which is why there is ample research on this topic.

The research provided will compare preferences of the usage of the future paraphrase amongst second-language Spanish speakers (L2) and native speakers of the Spanish language (L1). It will be observed that users of the paraphrase are often scholars at the advanced level in their second language acquisition. This paper shows that the paraphrase represents an adequate way of expressing actions in the near future, but does that make it an acceptable alternative for the future present tense?

SESSION 1C:
Poetic, Fictional and Visual Art in the Caribbean

“Annie John: Analysis of Becoming A Woman and The Caribbean Mother-Daughter Relationship”

Dr. Anique John, Arizona State University

The dynamic mother-daughter relationship can be loving and supportive at best as well as contentious and tragic. It is a relationship predicated on maternal instinct which can provide direction and support for deep insight into notions of womanhood, personal and political philosophies. However, in providing this guidance, ironically this same maternal guidance can act to stifle the growth of an adolescent daughter as she transitions into womanhood. Jamaica Kincaid’s ‘Annie John’ can be seen as an exemplar of this transition. Annie has to contend with not only her mother’s maternal pressure on her to conform, but she must also adhere to cultural expectations of a creolized culture predicated on both African and British understandings of femininity, social expectations, womanhood, and etiquette. This challenges Annie’s own emerging philosophy and desire for independence and self-definition.

As discussed in this paper, success can be achieved outside and beyond the mother-daughter dynamic once a daughter has had the opportunity to consider, realize, (and if necessary) defy the hypocrisy of being encouraged to be independent whilst being forced to follow one’s mother’s notion of womanhood. In a valiant attempt to avoid the tragedy of replicating her mother’s own flaws, Annie John’s personal growth was no easy feat and created at times a contentious dynamic. However, this journey not only facilitated her success and independence so that she could travel beyond the shores of Antigua, it demonstrated an independence of thought that African Caribbean creolized women must experience in order to realize their own success.

The function, role and purpose of poetry in Antigua and Barbuda and a larger global environment.

Dr. Elaine Olaoye, Brookdale Community College

The function, role, relationships and purpose of poetry are each worthy of consideration as it articulates and sheds light on the lives of individuals, societies, cultures, nations and also on an emerging global community. Poetry will be positioned here as a universal artform that served humankind for centuries and is shaped by its geographical area and its time period and in turn shapes these as well. Poetry has been the voice of individuals and cultures, as well the proclamations of nations. Poetry as a spoken artform has lent itself well to the communication of personal, cultural and natural freedoms. This paper will begin a journey of exploring poetry of Antigua and Barbuda in the light of these universal considerations: The contributions of Antiguan and Barbudan poetry in relation to individual, cultural, societal and global concerns and issues.

Double Consciousness in the Visual Art of Frank Walter

Prof. Paget Henry, Brown University

Being a small twin island state, the cultural traditions and major artists and thinkers of Antigua and Barbuda are not very well known. In the area of fiction writing, Jamaica Kincaid has brought the attention of the literary world to Antigua and Barbuda. For a long time, there was no corresponding figure in the field of visual art. Although, he had been painting for decades, it was not until 2017, eight years after his death, that visual art world really began to appreciate the contributions of the Antiguan and Barbudan painter, Frank Walter. Many began referring to him as the Jamaica Kincaid of Antiguan and Barbudan visual art. Major exhibitions of his work have been put on in Italy, Germany and the UK. In my paper, I will briefly introduce Frank Walter, the man, and then move on to examine the nature and scope of his art. I should note here, that, on a much smaller scale, Walter also a poet, composer of music and the writer of complex genealogies. Walter's visual art moved in two major directions. First was the exploration of his spirituality through a cultivated closeness to nature, and through ego-transcending experiences of a mystic/visionary nature. Second, his visual art explored intensively and extensively the racialization of his identity as a result of growing up in colonial Antigua and Barbuda. This racialization of his identity resulted in an extreme case of what W.E.B. DuBois called double consciousness – the ability to see oneself through one's own eyes and also through the eyes of one's colonizer. My focus in this presentation will be on Walter's exploration of his racialization and the double consciousness that it produced.

SESSION 2A:

Immigration Issues and Suicide in Latin America and the Caribbean

Central American Migration: Structural Factors of Forced Migration

Dr. James Daria, Georgia College and State University

In the past decade, mass migration from the Central America has created a major human rights crisis at the U.S.-Mexican border as well as a contentious political issue. Although there are exceptions, most research on Central American migration inexplicably interprets the idea of migration due to economic necessity. The migration of the Garífuna, an Afro-Indigenous people from coastal Central America and the Caribbean, demonstrates the complexity of reasons for migration. Through a multi-sited ethnographic research project in Garífuna communities in Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras, I demonstrate how Garífuna migration follows expected norms and differs in many unique ways. This research sheds light on the structural forces of migration such as violence, displacement, and natural disasters worsened by climate change. These structural forces, I argue, are both visible (political violence, land grabbing, etc.) and invisible (racism, discrimination, etc.). Through understanding the complex and often-unseen forces of migration and displacement,

migration policy can more effectively assist Central American migrants and refugees and work toward solving the structural forces that propel people to migrate.

Impact of People's Anti-immigrant Sentiments on Immigration Policies and the Migrant/refugees' Use of Public Services in Selected Destination Countries

Dr. Clemente Quinones, Georgia Gwinnett College

The September 11 attacks and the war against terrorism that followed increased destination societies' feelings of hostility, anger, and mistrust toward refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants. In most cases, these feelings were especially against migrants from Middle East (mostly Muslim) countries and from Latin America. These sentiments aggravated, I assume, with the COVID 19. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the extent to which these anti-immigrant sentiments have affected both 1) the type of immigration policies and practices, if any, undertaken by the destination governments and 2) the migrant/refugees' willingness to seek support from services provided by the destination societies. The hypotheses are 1) the response/policies and practices by governments responded to the people's negative, anti-immigrant sentiments and for this reason, such policies negatively have affected both the socioeconomic situation and spiritual well-being (peace) of the asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants. The second hypothesis is that indeed, the asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants do not use public services in destination societies, among other things, because of the anti-immigrant policies and the people's anti-im/migrant sentiments. To test these hypotheses, data will come from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), the International Organization for Migration, and the World Value Survey (WVS) database.

Suicide in Latin America and the Caribbean

Prof. George Dannels, University of North Georgia

Suicide is the intentional taking of one's own life. The World Health Organization (WHO 2021) declared suicide a serious global public health problem and estimates that each year over 703,000 people die from suicide, which represents a global mortality rate of 16 people per 100,000 or one death every 40 seconds. For every suicide fatality there is an estimated twenty others who would have attempted. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has some of the highest suicide rates and the lowest suicide rates in the world and increases have been noted in the overall regional suicide rates and in the rates for both sexes as well. This paper provides an overview of suicide as a serious social and public health problem in the LAC. It explores the demographics of those who commit suicide; pinpoints the methods used to commit suicide; identify the months, days and times suicides are more likely to occur; ascertain the risk factors and probable causes of suicide; and, whether societal norms are against or supportive of suicidal behavior. Information and data for this chapter were derived from scholarly research, secondary data and reports obtained from international agencies such as the WHO and the Pan American Health Organization. Case studies of Mexico and Guyana from the LAC region are provided to enable comparisons and deepened understanding of suicide in the region.

SESSION 2B:

Language Usage, Poetry and Hispanic Culture

Gabriela Mistral: La Madre de Todos (The Mother of All)

Ms. Sheridan Porras, University of North Georgia

Gabriela Mistral, or Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, was a humanitarian poet from Chile. Mistral was a modernist writer who focused on the female perspective. Motherhood and the condition of love are

prominent themes of her works. Love can be maternal, painful, or infinite just as motherhood can be peaceful, sad, or impossible. The purpose of this essay is to analyze how the content, modernist rhetoric, and aesthetic of selected Mistral's poems, such as "Los Sonetos de la Muerte" ("Sonnets of Death") and "La mujer estéril" ("The sterile woman"), demonstrate the different forms of love and motherhood. It will explore the duality and complexity of apparent simplistic social concepts.

Los acentos variados entre cantantes mexicanos de regiones diferentes

Ms. Colton Glaze, University of North Georgia

Various studies show that, in general, popular music artists singing in English do not sing with their native accent but instead in the accent deemed most appropriate for the genre in which they are performing. However, there is little research on different accents represented in music sung in Spanish. This paper focuses on the linguistic differences between several regions of Mexico, aiming to fill this research gap by exploring how and if dialectal differences manifest themselves in Mexican pop music and the significance of that preservation on individual culture.

La educación a los niños latinos y sus efectos psicológicos

Ms. Susana Olivo Sandoval, University of North Georgia

This research presentation will talk about parental education for Hispanic boys and its psychological effects. The topic came to my mind after reading a short story named "Padre, he aquí a tu hijo" by Cristina Pacheco. I hope to show young boys' mental and physical struggles because of cultural expectations by talking about the short story and how it shows a clear example of Hispanic culture. It shows the fights, effects, and results for the boys. Of course, the father's perspective is also essential together with the story's structure. The method that I used for this research was analyzing the short story from my perspective. Then I will take a more professional approach and search articles related to the topics of childhood abuse and physiological effects. After doing a lot of research and analysis, I concluded that the story puts us in the eyes of a Hispanic boy raised with the expectations of society. Even as a female, I was able to understand the perspective of the main character. Sadly, we can observe the familiar chain of abuse in the family that many Hispanic families can relate to. Mrs. Pacheco shows us the cruel reality of the main character, which could be the daily life of a person close to you.

SESSION 2C:

Experiential Learning Approaches in Conversation Practice

Experiential Learning Approaches to Conversation Practice: Commercial Platforms, Collaboration with Partner University from Colombia, and Embedded Conversation Partners

Panelists:

Dr. Ofélia Nikolova, Professor of French, Valdosta State University;

Dr. Grażyna Walczak, Professor of Spanish, Valdosta State University and

Dr. Susan Wehling, Professor of Spanish Valdosta State University

In a day and age when student participation seems to dwindle and online delivery of instruction is becoming prevalent in foreign languages, opportunities to speak face to face become more and more limited. Thus, finding conversation partners in the target language becomes an ever more important task. Enter commercial online conversation platforms. For the last several years, they have become increasingly popular as a means to bolster students' confidence and abilities in speaking and

listening. However, they present a major inconvenience - cost. Three faculty - two professors of Spanish and one of French - and three students, all Spanish majors, will discuss three experiential learning opportunities for students of French or Spanish to carry out synchronous conversations with native or advanced speakers of the target language. They include the use of commercial conversation platforms such as TalkAbroad and Linguameeting, a language exchange program with students from the Universidad de Santo Tomas in Tunja whereby students swapped conversations in English for conversations in Spanish; and, a conversation partnership between novice-high students and advanced-low students in which the latter organized and carried out conversations with their lower proficiency counterparts as a part of their Senior Seminar class. All programs provided various degrees of development of linguistic and cultural competency as well as increased metalinguistic awareness. Students and faculty will discuss the pros and cons of the three approaches.

SESSION 3A: *Economic Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean*

Protracted Crisis? Poverty and Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean

Prof. Donna Dannels, University of North Georgia

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economies of the developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have been characterized by a seemingly “protracted crisis;” a crisis evidenced in the region’s mediocre economic performance compared to other developing regions, rising levels of unemployment, continued income inequality and an uptick in poverty within many of the economies. The majority of LAC countries currently have GDP per capita rates below the world’s average and overall, the region’s per capita income is below its 2009 level. Engrained inequality, poverty and extreme poverty plague many of the region’s economies. Nine of the nineteen most unequal countries in the world are in Latin America, earning it the distinction of being the most unequal region in the world. This presentation examines recent macroeconomic trends in the LAC region; compares these trends to the world’s other developing regions; examines income, poverty and inequality trends in the region and discusses the interlocking nature of these economic problems and other impediments to improving the lives of the poor and “left behind” in the LAC region.

The Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Tourism and Education in Cusco, Peru

Dr. Kristi Hislope, University of North Georgia

This paper will address how the Covid-19 virus has affected Cusco, Peru, in the areas of tourism and education. Cusco is the gateway to Machu Picchu which sees thousands of tourists each year. As a result, the economy of Cusco relies heavily on the tourism industry. Cusco is also a popular study abroad location, however, Peru’s educational system was interrupted by Covid much like the rest of the world. Interviews with Cusco residents in the tourism and education sectors will inform a portion of this paper.

Financialization and Income Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean

*Dr. Dwight Wilson, Dr. Diogo Pinheiro, and Dr. Rana Gautam
University of North Georgia*

This paper analyzes the sources and effects of financialization – the increasing size and power of an economy’s financial sector, composed of banking and other financial services – in Latin America from the 1980s to the present. Though a process often accompanied by neoliberal economic policies, financialization is a complex, multifaceted phenomenon operating on a poorly understood logic of its

own with profound consequences for social well-being. We examine data from the last four decades on levels of financialization, social spending, and social welfare from across the region to evaluate financialization's effects on inequality.

Our empirical analyses rely on data from eighteen Latin American and Caribbean countries. We apply instrumental variable technique to examine how domestic credit to private sector as percentage of the GDP, outstanding international private debt securities as a percentage of the GDP, and BCDI Index (banking, credit, debt, and inflation crises that have accompanied the rise of global finance) affect income inequality measured as GINI disposable income (post tax and transfer). We also estimate the effect of aggregate social, health, and education spending as a percentage of GDP on income inequality. The model indicates that private sector credit growth as a proportion of GDP leads to increased inequality. In contrast, two measures of financialization – investment in private debt securities and financial crises do not have statistically significant effects. The aggregate social spending lowers income inequality but fails to attain statistical significance in all the models.

Development Successes and Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms. Stephanie Medina, University of North Georgia

Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced various successes and challenges in the past twenty years, remarking the region's overall progress. Upon research using the Human Development Index's three indicators: life expectancy, years of schooling, and GNI per capita an analysis proves there has been unified successes and challenges in the region overall. Furthermore, it is important to highlight certain countries that have been notoriously successful like Costa Rica and Chile, that have shown exceptional progress in pillars like life expectancy and years of schooling, respectively. Just as important are the challenges like those faced by Haiti tainted by natural disasters, political injustices, poverty, and diseases. Moreover, Latin American and the Caribbean has shown steady progress in all realms over the course of the past two decades, but a closer look reveals the numbers are not as significant and the regions overall growth requires further attention.

SESSION 3B:

Teaching Paradigms, Modalities and Study Abroad Programs

From science fiction to Spanish: Is AI here to stay?

Prof. Maria Jose Maguire, University of North Georgia

During the pandemic, we made a big jump in teaching modalities that many feelings and emotions will resonate with everyone teaching during the last year and half: overwhelmed, frustrated, and tired. Long and exhausting hours in front of the computer trying to find the best way to support our students, who already felt isolated, lost, and worn-out and with immense pressure in trying to finish the semester. One word that I came across in almost every single search is AI. AI (Artificial Intelligence) which is already part of our daily life from the voice assistant to the music we listen to, to using the GPS navigation system, and banking online, among many other things that we can no longer do without. Will this be the next best solution for unforeseen natural or human disasters? As educators, we must start the conversation about the use of Artificial Intelligence in language courses, despite its usefulness, or inconveniences, and challenges. It is here to stay. In this preliminary research, I propose to open the conversation about the opportunities and challenges that derived with Artificial Intelligence in the language classroom in relation to student accessibility, personalization, inequalities and divides, cultural heritage, and class instruction.

Pandemic Passports: Designing a Virtual Study Abroad Program through Interdepartmental Collaboration.

*Dr. Annalease Gibson, Dr. Erica DeCuir, and Dr. John Williams
Albany State University*

The consequences of the pandemic has caused a rapid paradigm shift for study abroad programs. With travel restrictions for study abroad and study away, Albany State University had to take on a new approach to involve students currently enrolled in summer study abroad courses. This presentation will focus on the development of the first virtual study abroad program at Albany State University. The primary goal of this virtual study abroad program was to ensure students were able to be exposed to Caribbean culture. The interdisciplinary program comprised various courses across the disciplines of social work, biology, and education with a focus on Jamaica and the Caribbean culture. Discussion points include elements of the program development, the outline of weekly Jamaican culture series embedded, and a two-day physical workshop option.

Screen Time, Fatigue and Technological Challenges: Pedagogical Experiences of US and Caribbean College Professors Teaching Online During the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Dr. Carolyn Walcott, Clayton State University
Dr. Melany Chambers, Oglethorpe University*

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted lives globally at every stratum of society and has significantly impacted the delivery of vital services such as healthcare and education. In response to the pandemic, many regional, national, and international universities shifted from face-to-face to online teaching, forcing both professors and students to make pedagogical adjustments. This qualitative study, grounded in media richness and technological determinism theories, explored the experiences of US and Caribbean media and communication studies professors because of the shift to online teaching. Media and communication studies professors from US and Caribbean universities and colleges were identified and recruited through snowball sampling. Data, collected using in-depth semi-structured interviews, conducted via Zoom, were analyzed using constant comparison methodology to identify themes and related issues.

Results show that screen time, fatigue, and other technological challenges were consistent among institutions in both the US and Caribbean regions. However, whereas US professors experienced screen time vacuums inherent in the absence-presence of students who seemed disengaged or distracted at times, Caribbean professors faced “student absences” due largely to limited Internet access and related challenges. Overall, professors’ fatigue was attributed to the lack of infrastructure, the sharp learning curve in making technological adjustments, and extra work that was necessary to meet the needs of students. The media and communication professors felt that the global pandemic provided opportunities for universities to build information and communication infrastructure for education delivery across multiple disciplines, while also enhancing teaching capacity for current and future use of technology.

Integrating academic learning and community engagement: ART 3570 Mexican and U.S. Latino Art and the 2021 Hispanic Heritage Month Art Exhibition

Dr. Ana Pozzi Harris, University of North Georgia

In fall 2020, a new upper-level art history course I created, Mexican and U.S. Latino Art, was added to University of North Georgia (UNG) degree programs in Visual Arts. I offered the newly minted course the following semester and it quickly filled up with twenty students. In fall 2021, I co-organized the Hispanic Heritage Month Art Exhibition in collaboration with the UNG Office of Multicultural Student Affairs. While this event was an extra-curricular juried art exhibition open to all UNG students, faculty, staff, and guest community members, I conceived of it as an extension of

my academic course. Using this experience as an example, I explore how a community experience may be successfully integrated with academic teaching, where both activities contribute to student learning and community engagement, reinforcing their shared purposes while retaining their distinct and specific objectives and settings.

SESSION 3C: *Educational Resources and Language Pedagogy*

Effect of text-only vs. video enhanced instructions to tasks on language production in a foreign language online course

Dr. Mariana Stone, University of North Georgia

This paper aims to explore the effect of types of instructions to tasks, text only vs. video enhanced, on student engagement and language production in an online learning environment. Our online learning platforms are text heavy and although teachers have incorporated video explanations and audio-visual input as much as possible, the portion language input via instructions to tasks has remained mostly in text form. In F2F foreign language classes those moments where the teacher explains the task are language input teaching moments that appear to be lost in the online environment. The purpose of this project is to evaluate if there is a significant difference in quantity and quality of language production by the student depending on what format the instructions were given in. Secondary to this goal is exploring what are the students' attitudes and preferences towards the format of those instructions. The context of this study is the foreign language classroom, but it can benefit other content areas as well.

ESOL/ Spanish for Native Speakers Middle School Teachers

Mrs. Nancy Gandy, Alumni, University of North Georgia

In this presentation I present data as part of my research on Hispanic parent involvement in the US education system. Based on that information there are flaws that parents believe exist in the education system: the language barrier and a sense of belonging. In the educators perspective, Hispanic parents are failing to monitor their children, involvement in their academics, and encouraging them to graduate high school and attend college. However, these findings are just part of a continuous improvement plan of every member participating in education. My initial views as a teacher and as a parent on the education system and Hispanic communities acknowledges barriers that we cannot seem to improve in the Hispanic community. Therefore, my efforts go to facilitate understanding of the Hispanic education system in comparison to the American education system. The research I have done in the past has enlightened me to teach others an understanding that is easy to miss due to the language barrier. Just as language changes over time, so do cultural beliefs and understanding. The research I will present will focus on education vs educación. Contrary to popular belief, they are not interchangeable. As with anything that is researched in the past it will take time to break the barriers that separate two cultures that live side by side.

A Curriculum and Resource Repository for Latin American & the Caribbean

Prof. Eric Kendrick, Perimeter College – Georgia State University

This session will examine a repository developed at Georgia State University Perimeter College for faculty to share and borrow materials and resources for Latin America & the Caribbean, especially as it relates to teaching general education courses, i.e., core curriculum courses in the University System of Georgia. It was developed by a Perimeter College professor with a summer grant from the Dean's Office. The repository is hosted on an iCollege non-course site. iCollege is GSU's learning management system, or digital learning platform. In addition to course sites, iCollege can also be used to host various non-course sites, even those without a curricular focus. Since this is an in-

house initiative, iCollege was used for several reasons: its extensive use across the college; faculty and student familiarity with the online platform; and its ease of use, particularly the direct transfer of lessons to and from iCollege sites. The name of the repository is Latin American & Caribbean Curriculum Depot, and it currently includes two main sections. One is a catalog of online resources, including university sites with targeted programs on Latin America and the Caribbean. The other is curricular content categorized by humanities, social sciences, and STEM, which are lessons that faculty can adopt and adapt for their courses.

The Pedagogical Value of Google Translate

Dr. Karen Guffey, Gordon State College

Ms. Mallory Carter, Gordon State College

Google Translate is a thorn in the flesh for Spanish instructors. Students use it to translate their compositions into Spanish and reading assignments into English. But the translator can also be a useful tool. A student learning Spanish as a second language can put his Spanish composition into the translator to see if it means what was intended, and if it doesn't, the student can look for mistakes and revise. Also, the translator is frequently intelligent enough to determine a writer's intent. That is, it may tell the student that it means exactly what was intended even if there are errors in the composition. The student can – and should – then reverse translate the composition to see if the translator produces the same sentences as the original. The student may very well discover errors in agreement, conjugation, preposition use, etc.

I asked one superior student I trust to keep track of the errors she discovered using Google Translate in this way. I intend to share what she has learned in order to demonstrate the usefulness of the translator as a tool for improving Spanish writing skills.

SESSION 4A:

New Trends in contemporary Latin American Novel

In this panel, authors explore from different perspectives and from an interdisciplinary approach new trends in the Latin American novel. The panel analyzes the contemporary narrative of very different and representative countries in the region: Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil in order to discuss the possibilities and limits of narrative forms to apprehend and represent the complex Latin American reality. A region characterized by poverty, violence, and racial, class, and gender inequalities that have been exacerbated by the failure of neoliberal reforms in the late twentieth century and the successive left-wing populist governments of the early 21st century. The authors in this panel discuss from different perspectives the ways in which the new Latin American narratives address some of these problems in particular.

The Memory of the Affections

Dr. Jaime Salinas, University of North Georgia

This article analyses the novel *Los afectos* (2015) by Rodrigo Hasbún to propose a new approach to better understand the new forms of social representation in contemporary Latin American novels. This article argues that the narrative strategies related to figure of the narrator that fictionalized the family memory establishes new forms of relationship between aesthetics and politics. Even though its polyphonic structure the aesthetic proposal is limited by formal mechanisms that seek to control de fictionalized memory. Therefore, any possibility to interpellate or redefine the relationship among History, Memory and narrative is diminished. Nevertheless, Hasbún's novel leaves open the possibility to think through the affections more democratic ways to build shared memories

El libre albedrío, el determinismo y la constitución narrativa de la identidad en Mi negro pasado de Laura Esquivel

Dr. Alvaro Torres-Calderón, University of North Georgia

This essay will analyze the two main protagonists in Laura Esquivel's *My Black Past* (2018), through the aspects of free will, determinism and the narrative construction of the identity. Using a multidisciplinary approach of literature, psychology and sociology, the research focuses on freedom, a result of a biological determinism, which constitutes a neuronal plasticity and a neuronal spontaneous reconnection even without including the environment. Key words of this process are "creation/innovation" and "break point" and this is what the author does in the dialogue between the protagonists. The author criticizes the constant confrontation between free individual will and deterministic prejudice societies.

The novel shows us Lucía Brown, a doctor in chemistry, great cook, widow of a mulato husband and at her daughter's funeral, she reconnects with her granddaughter. María, Lucía's granddaughter, is a food addict, and she is experiencing the end of her marriage, because of social prejudices originated from her having a black baby when both María and her husband had fair skin. Lucía, could not face her daughter, who blamed her for her father's death. Therefore, the reconnection with her granddaughter constitutes the opportunity to re-connect and recognize herself, to review family cooking traditions and stories; and to be free to re-encounter her husband in the other life. Both women needed each other to make the breakpoint of their lives and having their confidence (independence) regained, allow them to face social obstacles, the best recipe against the evils of this world: prejudice, alienation, obesity, and empty consumerism.

El realismo mágico, la teología de la liberación y una reacción al secularismo eurocéntrico

Dr. Alfredo Poggi, University of North Georgia

En esta presentación se investigarán las semejanzas entre el realismo mágico y la teología de la liberación, que si bien tienen diferencias marcadas, comparten un contexto socio-histórico similar y plantean una agenda común frente a la secularización y el secularismo europeo. Primero, se establecerán las categorías teóricas centrales para el abordaje de los discursos de secularización, basado en los trabajos del sociólogo José Casanova y el filósofo Charles Taylor. Segundo, se describirá las semejanzas espacio-temporales de ambos fenómenos como marco contextual. Tercero, se examinará la estrategia común de articulación discursiva de ambos proyectos constituida desde el imaginario social de América Latina. Cuarto, se analizará la importancia de la religiosidad popular latinoamericana de la época, especialmente en los conceptos de fe, comunidad y tradición. Quinto, se examinará el rol de la historia y la praxis política liberadora dentro de los dos movimientos. Y finalmente, se reconocerá el denominador común en las críticas que recibieron ambas articulaciones desde los años 80, tomando en cuenta los señalamientos de Ramón Grosfoguel y Nelson Maldonado-Torres sobre las estructuras institucionales de la modernidad eurocéntrica y su impacto en la secularización latinoamericana.

Home away from home: immigration and identity in Azul Corvo by Adriana Lisboa

Dr. Raphael Palermo, University of North Georgia

This essay analyzes how the novel *Azul Corvo* (2010), by Adriana Lisboa, delves into the emotional and identity distress that Brazilian immigrants go through in the United States, especially in recent years. In the narrative, this sense of distress and identity crisis is explored through the main character, a 13-year-old girl named Vanja who leaves the tropical city of Rio de Janeiro to live in Colorado. Daughter of a Brazilian mother and an American father who she never met, Vanja's birth right to the American citizenship does not make her immigration any easier, as she struggles to form an identity that embraces her "Brazilianess" and her quest for American sentiment of belonging. As a result, Vanja is led to question her Brazilian identity in order to be accepted by American society,

shifting her concept of home from Brazil to the U.S. Therefore, the idea of "home" and "identity" in the novel is spatio-temporal, that is, a process of constant (re)construction of self-existence in relation to the in-between space and time where the immigrant is.

SESSION 4B: Healthcare Research and Practices in the Caribbean

Medical records in Grenada, WI: the past, present and challenges of using hand-written records

*Dr. Amy Baldwin, Augusta University / University of Georgia Medical Partnership
A Bahadoor-Yetman, St. George's University, School of Medicine, Grenada, WI
V Mapp-Alexander, St. George's University, School of Medicine, Grenada, WI*

When medical records are hand-written, challenges in storage and retrieval are enormous. Additionally, the scope and opportunity for research can be limited by a lack of accurate data entries, use of anecdotal information for clinical assessments rather than factual data, difficulty obtaining access to medical records and a reduced ability to perform statistical analysis. A previous study in Grenada, WI determined cervical lesion and cancer prevalence, as well as cervical cancer mortality, using de-identified records of self-seeking patients and death registries from the Ministry of Health. As a result of this project, implementation of an in-house quality check system and electronic database were introduced. While efforts have been made to create a sustainable electronic medical record keeping database and registry, this has not translated throughout the healthcare system and continues to be a limiting factor for improving sustainable outcomes. Since the start of the COVID pandemic, all efforts to facilitate contact tracing involve hand-written ledgers across businesses, with persons' names and contact information readily viewable, eliminating confidentiality. A confidential, electronic solution for record keeping, especially in times of crisis management, should be considered and implemented. In this session we will discuss the need for developing nations to encourage efforts to train, educate and involve personnel at all levels and disciplines to foster team work in order to promote health safety and quality through secure and accurate electronic health records. These efforts can be accomplished with limited technological resources, but rely upon communication, collaboration and dissemination of data.

Saving Brains Grenada: Preventing Violence, Promoting Child Development

*Prof. Barbara Landon, St George's University School of Graduate Studies
Dr. Randall Waechter, St. George's University School of Medicine*

"Saving Brains Grenada" is an early child development (ECD) Programme launched in 2014 in the tri-island state of Grenada, West Indies. Its dual focus was on: (1) enhancing neurodevelopment, and thereby human capital, by imparting knowledge and skills to adult caregivers that build emotion regulation and social emotional connection among children and their caregivers, thereby enhancing child safety, exploration, and stimulation; and (2) addressing culturally entrenched, postcolonial practices of harsh corporal punishment and related violence against children. The Program uses an adapted Conscious Discipline curriculum, a trauma-informed triune brain state model focused on adult skill-building in a context in which licks, spanks, and beatings are culturally normative despite overwhelming evidence that violence is harmful for children's health and brain development. The curriculum is delivered to families through a home visiting program by community-based social workers (i.e., Roving Caregivers); to communities through a mobile unit (The Saving Brains Bus); and more recently to pre-primary schools through an adaptable coaching system administered both in-person and virtually. A key element is the Program's brain-based focus on safe, connected relationships in which to maintain composure, resolve conflicts, and solve problems.

Results have demonstrated: (1) improved neurodevelopment in children; (2) significant shifts in knowledge about developmentally appropriate child rearing practices and skills among teachers, Roving Caregivers, and parents; and (3) moderate shifts in attitudes toward the use of corporal punishment among teachers, Roving Caregivers, and parents. Work is ongoing and in process of scaling to the region.

Experiences with periodic pro bono pediatric genetics /adult neurology clinics in a resource-limited Caribbean community

Prof. Andrew Sobering, Augusta University / University of Georgia Medical Partnership

In developed countries, patients with congenital disorders and adult onset neurological degeneration have access to medical services aimed at diagnosis and management. Many Caribbean countries lack these services because of low gross domestic product. The resource and health-care capabilities of many Caribbean island nations are further limited due to their relatively small populations and geographical isolation. Since 2013 I have worked towards development of a program to connect pediatric geneticists and neurologists specializing in movement disorders to a small Caribbean island nation. Specialist evaluation may help by providing justification and guidance for obtaining imaging, laboratory testing, and collaboration for molecular diagnosis. In addition to ending the diagnostic odyssey, genetic confirmation of diagnosis in affected families enables inheritance counseling and discussions aimed at dispelling myths in the local community about disease causation. Reliance on international shipping of precious biological samples complicates logistics and has resulted in failure to deliver specimens to collaborating laboratories. Challenges abound and include difficulties in scheduling follow-up appointments due to the periodic nature of the clinics, lack of infrastructure, and low continuity of service. Important lessons were learned while obtaining institutional review board ethical oversight, establishing a small lab for DNA purification, and discussions with patients, parents, and caregivers. Importantly, our program has led to positive changes on patient management and opportunities for continuing medical education among local physicians. Examples of relevant failures, challenges, lessons, and successes will be presented.

Identification of HPV Genotypes in Grenada: A comparison of Self-Sampling to Physician-Obtained Cervical Cytology

*Ms. Ronelle Bailey, St. George's University School of Medicine,
Kritika Padala, School of Medicine, St. George's University, Grenada,
et al.*

The observed cervical cancer mortality rate in Grenada exceeds the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates for the region. Although screening is readily available, less than 15% of women in Grenada are screened annually. The goal of this study is to evaluate use of a self-sampling device as compared to standard clinician-collected sampling, to assess high-risk human papillomavirus (hrHPV) presence among Grenadian women.

Asymptomatic women (N=59) age 22 to 57 residing in Grenada's largest city (St George's) and surrounding communities were recruited to participate in cervical cancer screening. Two liquid-based cervical specimens were obtained from each woman: one by standard Pap smear and one by a self-sampling device. The order of collection was randomized. Both samples in each pair were evaluated for abnormal cervical cytology and HPV testing by laboratory technicians blinded to the sampling technique.

Of the 59 cervical samples, 8 (13.5%) were hrHPV positive. The 8 clinician-collected samples identified as hrHPV-positive also yielded positive hrHPV results in their self-collected counterparts. For the remaining 51 samples, both the clinician- and self-collected samples yielded negative hrHPV results, indicating a 100% concordance between detection of hrHPV using the self-collected and standard clinician-collected cervical samples. We conclude that the use of self-collected cervical samples for detection of high-risk human papillomavirus (hrHPV) is comparable to use of clinician-

collected samples. These findings indicate self-sampling devices may serve as a viable alternative to traditional clinician-collected cervical samples, for use in HPV testing, as part of the preventive gynecological health services in Grenada.

SESSION 4C: *Human Trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean*

This panel spotlights a newly published book: *Human Trafficking Global History and Perspectives* by Elisha Jasper Dung and Augustine Avwunudiogba and other LAC works that are in progress. The panelists present some of the work published and/or underway by a group of professors from 3 different universities. Despite the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic, this group has persisted and have contributed to the completion and publication of three books while a fourth is underway. The topics presented in this panel include *The Spatial Distribution of Human Trafficking: A Global Analysis*; Communication factors that reveal human traffickers' deceptions to their Latin America and Caribbean Victims; and *Trafficking of Girls in the Latin America and Caribbean Region*.

The Spatial Distribution of Human Trafficking: A Global Analysis

Dr. Augustine Avwunudiogba, California State University Stanislaus

Dr. Elisha Dung, Alabama State University

Human trafficking is a global phenomenon that has attracted the attention of academia, politicians, policymakers, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Although the trafficking of humans, which involves the movement of people within and across national boundaries without their consent, is rooted in human history of migration, the modern phenomenon of human trafficking is manifested in complex multi-level national and international formal and informal interactions. This complexity poses major challenges to the identification and appreciation of the magnitude of the problem of human trafficking within the political, governmental, and public domains. Amplifying this problem is the lack of systematic, consistent, available, and readily accessible data. In contrast to other major global problems involving the voluntary and involuntary movement of people. The goal of this chapter is to provide a global snapshot of the phenomenon of human trafficking that is easily accessible to the public domain. Global data and information on human trafficking would be compiled from various sources and standardized using officially recognized national boundaries to create a Geodatabase. Geographic information systems (GIS) software would be used to analyze and visualize the spatial distribution of the global pattern of human trafficking. Within this framework, regional patterns of the severity of the problem would be analyzed. The chapter, . The implications of the findings of this study to the formulation of national and global policies and strategies to combat the problem of human trafficking are discussed in the concluding section.

Sex Trafficking of Girls: Focus on Latin America and Caribbean

Prof. Brenda Gill and Dr. Jesse McKinnon

Alabama State University

Using sociological lens the presenters will proffer some societal as well as individual push/pull factors that bolster the sex trafficking of girls to and from the LAC region. The intent is to explain why women and girls account for 80 percent of all persons trafficked to and from the LAC region. This presentation will discuss the lucrative and widespread nature of sex trafficking of girls in LAC countries. The aspiration is to aid understanding as to why despite the enactment and ratification of the Palermo Protocol, and the judgments and sanctions imposed by the U.S. via its Annual Trafficking in Persons' Report, Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) region continues to be

recognized as the source, transit, and destination location for the sex trafficking of girls. The connection between sex trafficking of girls and migration and tourism, especially child sex tourism which is a lucrative business throughout the region is another undertaking here. While noting the limitations of accurate data, the presenters will use available data to discuss some of the trends of sex trafficking of girls across the LAC region. Where available, numbers and percentages are presented to show recent trends as well as the scope of the problem.

Communication Factors That Reveal Human Traffickers' Deceptions to their Latin America and Caribbean Victims

Dr. Ivon Alcime, Alabama State University

Human Trafficking is a grievous setback and an encroachment of human rights. Included in the United Nations definition of trafficking in persons, is “the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them.” Estimates are that 24.9 million people have been trafficked globally. Seventy-seven percent of the victims are exploited in their own countries. In Latin America and the Caribbean, human trafficking is an emergent problem. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Trafficking victims are 44 percent higher in Latin America than in Europe and Central Asia outside of the commercial sex industry. Haiti and the Dominican Republic are considered the highest in the Caribbean. Although there is extensive research conducted on human trafficking, there is not enough focus on the communications of the traffickers in Latin America and the Caribbean. This presentation examines the various forms of human trafficking over time, the communication strategies used by human traffickers to lure their victims, and the communication factors from traffickers convey that allow them to deceive their prey and eventually lure their victims into captivity in Latin America and the Caribbean. Data are derived from journal articles, print news, magazine, and non-governmental organizations (NGO) reports between the years 2010 and 2020. These data are coded based on types of trafficking, types of communication strategies, and communications factors. Implications for future research will be highlighted.

SESSION 5A:

Democracy and Power in Latin America and the Caribbean

Political Ideology and its Associations to Inequality: A Study of Venezuela 2019 and 2020

Dr. Alecia Hoffman, Alabama State University

In 2019, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) ranked 165 independent countries and two territories worldwide based on each country's level of democracy. Of interest was the government of Venezuela. With a ranking of 140/2.88. Venezuela's rank with the EIU is significant due to its location and oil wealth. Furthermore, much of Latin America and the Caribbean have received relatively high marks by the EIU for fostering “good governance.” However, the question arises when it comes to Venezuela. Where did this country miss the mark? This chapter aims to examine the links between political ideology and inequality. This chapter will build upon existing multidisciplinary research that explores the interconnectedness of authoritarianism and inequality. Moreover, it seeks to explain how the common perception of the relative power theory does not apply in the case of Venezuela.

The slow death of democracy under Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil

Dr. Jose de Arimateia da Cruz, Georgia Southern University

Mr. Joshua Kohler da Cruz, Georgia State University

This paper examines the slow death of democracy under the presidency of Jair Bolsonaro as he attempts to consolidate power by undermining Brazil's feckless democratic consolidation since the return of the Brazilian military to the barracks. We will discuss Brazil dual federalism.

Latin America's Soft Power

Dr. Cristian Harris, University of North Georgia

Power is defined as the ability to get others to do what we want. However, there are different ways to influence the behavior of others. Specifically, Joseph Nye argues that the attraction and persuasion of a country's culture, its ideals and values, and its policies are significant sources of power (Nye 2004). He refers to this form of power as soft power. Scholars have pointed out that Latin America is favorably endowed with these sources of power (Riley 2019). What is Latin America's soft power? What can Latin American governments do to capitalize on their soft power? What factors intervene to keep Latin America from fully leveraging its soft power? Are these temporary obstacles or more permanent and structural hindrances to realizing Latin America's soft power? This paper seeks to explore the role soft power plays in the foreign policies of selected Latin American cases and discuss strategies to develop Latin America's soft power.

Personality Development and Economic Underdevelopment: The Missing Link

Mr. Mario Delgado, Former Adjunct Faculty, University of North Georgia

Developing countries in their attempts to transform their economies and cultures into free and competitive markets and supportive democracies have seen their best efforts high jacked by their culture-prevailing authoritarian personalities and approaches. Moreover, similar failures are also encountered by developed nations that allow for the gradual concentration of power in the hands of the always present and self-serving powerful social, economic, and political interests. These failures are examined and some LAC examples proffered.

SESSION 5B:

Ethnography, Literature and Poetry in the Americas

Baseball and Criollo Identity in Venezuela

Prof. David Sheinin, Trent University

After 1960, baseball functioned as a unique cultural bridge between Venezuela and the United States. In an era before the intense, year-round training required of professional athletes in the United States today, dozens of U.S. players finished their seasons and headed for the Venezuelan "winter" league. In the decades following World War II, hundreds of Venezuelan players entered the US major leagues. It was also not uncommon for the nine players fielded by a Venezuelan team to be majority American, representing a broad range of ethnic and racial diversity. Drawing in part on U.S. baseball markers, Venezuelan baseball built a national, criollo Venezuelan identity category. Although not explicitly racial, the sport was linked at times to transnational ideas from the United States that identified the best players as "Latino." When baseball players went north, in Venezuela they became "Latino." In both Venezuelan and U.S. baseball, that identity was more complicated and less rigid as a racial qualifier than in other contexts. It included Latinx players as well as non-U.S. Latin Americans whose racial identities did not fully align with U.S. categories. In Venezuela,

“Latino” disrupted notions of Venezuelan racial categories. The categories reflected how U.S. media characterized Venezuelan players and other Latin American players, and in a manner that allowed Venezuelan fans to self-identify with other so-called Latinos.

In Search of Ramonet

Dr. Gordon McNeer, University of North Georgia

I am the product of immigrants. My paternal grandfather Arthur met my grandmother in Seattle on the way to hopping a steamer in search of gold in the Klondike. They had four boys. My dad was born in Fairbanks in 1905 when Alaska was still a territory and came to the United States with missionaries to Baltimore. He was finally raised in St. Paul's in New York City. My maternal grandfather John H. Evans was the first born in the United States of immigrants from Wales who left their home because the mining industry failed. They immigrated to Pittsburg and continued to work as coal miners. My grandfather escaped that fate and found employment with the Mexican Rubber Company. They sent him to Mexico to investigate opportunities in the manufacture of rubber. He met my grandmother there. They married and had three children. My mother Artemisa was born on the first day of spring in the year of the Mexican Revolution. 1910 was an unhealthy time for gringos in Mexico. By 1912 the family moved to California and on to central Florida where they built la casa de los abuelos which I caretake to this day.

I tell their stories in the following books: *From Mira lo que has hecho; Abuelo; Walking Toward Lake Alfred; Alaska; From The Children of Bob Dylan; Waiting for Dawn in Lake Alfred; John H. Evans; What Grandmother Kept Quiet; Klondike; From Poems from Walden; The Road; and, In Search of Ramonet.*

Puerto Rican Tales of Enchantment in Early Twentieth Century Oral Folklore: La Cenizosa and “los encantados”

Dr. Rafael Ocasio, Agnes Scott College

The earliest part of the twentieth century following the end of the Spanish American War of 1898 can be characterized as the beginning in the United States of exploration of Puerto Rican culture. Anthropologists Franz Boas and John Alden Mason gathered oral folklore stories characteristic of the island's rural areas. The project was published in *The Journal of American Folklore* (1916-1929).

This paper describes my bilingual anthology, *Folk Stories from the Hills of Puerto Rico/Cuentos folklóricos de las montañas de Puerto Rico* (Rutgers UP, 2021), which gathers representative folk tales published in *The Journal of American Folklore*. For this presentation I will focus on cuentos de encantamiento (tales of enchantment), local versions of international fairy tales reconfigured in curious literary formats. Puerto Rican oral cuentos de encantamiento reflect new local sceneries and revamped characters, such as Cinderella, who is renamed as Cenizosa (literally “covered in ashes”) to appeal a rural audience. Collected on the campo (countryside), the jíbaro (peasant) as cultural informants also highlighted a peculiar type of character, known as encantados, or individuals who had succumbed to the spells of evil characters. This is the case of Cenizosa, whose magical gifts from her fairy godmothers, described as encantadas, describe a type of supernatural belief system extremely popular in the Boas/Mason collection. In popular rejection of a colonialist American intervention on the island, these tales of enchantment dealt with strategies of cultural survival, leading not only to preservation of local traditions, but more importantly, of a Puerto Rican identity.

Solitude in the Americas: “Leaning into the Afternoons” by Pablo Neruda

Dr. Rudyard Alcocer, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

This presentation examines the work of the Chilean poet, Neftalí Reyes Basoalto (1904-1973), better known by his penname Pablo Neruda. Of particular interest is his understanding and use of the concept of solitude: a concept that in many respects has become emblematic of the Latin American

condition and to some extent of the Latin American region as a whole. Solitude, for Neruda, was not a static term: it evolved over the course of his career; similarly, his usage of the term takes on different meanings when refracted through his own changing biography and with changes in his cultural and historical milieu. This short presentation can at most allude to the various layers associated with Nerudian "solitude," let alone the ways in which other Latin American intellectuals have engaged with the concept. Instead, I will focus primarily on a single poem by Neruda, "Leaning into the Afternoon" ("Inclinado en las tardes"), from his youthful collection *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* (1924). This poem can serve as a springboard toward a more general view of Neruda's understanding of solitude.

SESSION 5C: Culture, Film, Ecology and the Environment

Cultural comparisons on Eat Drink Man Woman and Tortilla Soup

Mr. Nicholas Hu, University of North Georgia

Eat Drink Man Woman and *Tortilla Soup* have similar stories, characters, and endings. However, they are quite different. The former is about a Taiwanese family and the latter about a Latino family in the United States. My presentation will be on the cultural aspects of both movies, viewed through my perspective as a Taiwanese-American, as well as a speaker of Chinese, English, and Spanish. I will take into account the context where the families find themselves and the time periods when the movies were made.

Encanto Film for Spanish class

Dr. Luis Mora, Georgia Gwinnett College

This *Encanto* movie presentation is designed for Spanish students while watching the film and is designed to help students achieve all levels of language proficiency in Spanish and to maximize their experience of the language. For example, the movie *Encanto* would be the perfect complement to a study of family, grammar, Latin music, Colombia & magical realism. It is structured around viewing and discussing the film *Encanto* to expand their knowledge and understanding of Hispanic culture as well as engage in lively conversations on a broad array of topics.

Two Panelists discuss the documentary film "El Río" by Prof. Juan Carlos Galeano

1. Ms. Chanelle Dupuis, Brown University

2. Mr. Alexis Finet, Florida State University

Discussant – *Prof. Juan Carlos Galeano, Florida State University*

The documentary film *El Río* by Juan Carlos Galeano explores the importance of water to riverine and Indigenous communities in Amazonia and considers Indigenous cosmovisions and folktales alongside environmental problems and modernizing forces in the region. In this panel on the film, we will discuss the main themes of the documentary and dive into the representation of this space. Most notably, the film highlights severe environmental problems linked to riverways and shows how pollution, trash, and industrial forces are changing the quality of the water and impacting the daily lives of Amazonians. Filmed in beautiful color and unique in its thematic, the film highlights stories of people and does not contain the voice of a narrator; the people of this region get to tell their own stories and represent reality through that storytelling. The film contains poems by Juan Carlos Galeano and interviews with community members, including the Shawi Indigenous Philosopher, Rafael Chanchari. It is an aesthetic, artistic, and eco-critical exploration of a being that is rarely considered - water.