

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on the Americas

sponsored by

The Americas Council

hosted by

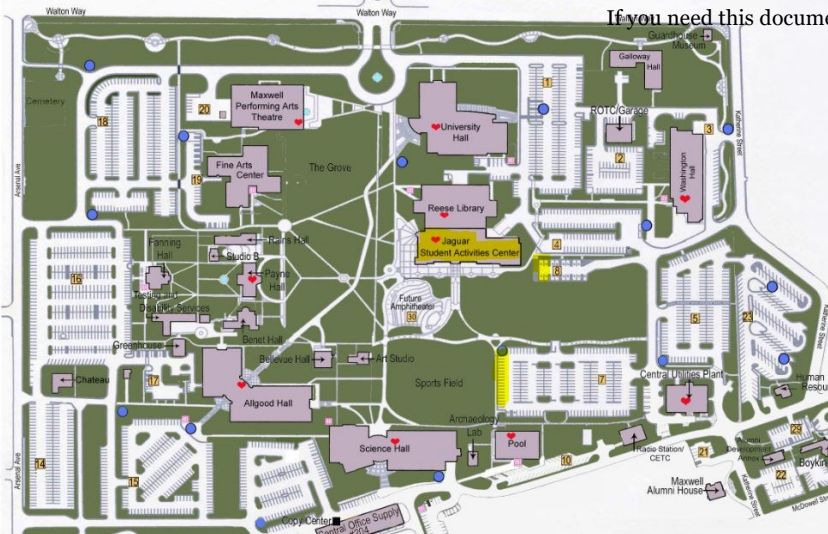
Augusta University

**Department of History, Anthropology & Philosophy and  
English & Foreign Languages of Pamplin College of Arts,  
Humanities & Social Sciences**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> -  
23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**

**All sessions will be held in  
the Jaguar Student  
Activities Center (JSAC)  
on Summerville Campus,  
2500 Walton Way,  
Augusta, GA 30904**

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**Musical Presentations,  
Lunch, Panels, and  
Keynote Address: JSAC  
Ballroom & Coffeehouse**



All events take place on the Augusta University Summerville campus at 2500 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30904. Free parking will be set aside for out-of-town guests in the highlighted areas above. All panels, Plenary, Keynote and luncheon will be held in the Jaguar Student Activities Center (JSAC) highlighted above and pictured below. The Registration table will be located outside the Ballroom on the 1st floor and the Coffeehouse and Butler Room are located on the 2nd floor. Welcome all!



# The 22nd Annual Conference on the Americas

Friday, February 23, 2019

12:00-5:00 pm Registration Table Outside JSAC Ballroom

1:00 – 1:30 pm **Plenary Speaker** JSAC Ballroom

David O'Hara, faculty, Augustana University, North Dakota  
Mountains Swimming Home: Why Alaskan Salmon And Guatemalan Vines Matter in GA



Two species that are not indigenous to Georgia give a picture of the interconnectedness of species across the Americas - including our own species. The Guatemalan water vine is a subtropical species and the Alaskan salmon thrives in Arctic waters. So what do they have to do with Georgia, and why should Georgians care? Dr. David O'Hara, an Environmental Humanities professor in South Dakota, will present on his field research in the Arctic and Central America, explaining in accessible terms how simple ecological principles can help us to understand everything from our food supply to immigration pressures, border walls, and the legal, political, and economic challenges facing indigenous peoples in the Americas.

1:30 – 2:30 pm Session 1A JSAC Coffeehouse

Panel Title: **Addressing Cancer Screening Disparities for Hispanic Women Using Linguistic and Culturally-Appropriate Electronic Assessment Tool**

Moderator: Pamela Cromer, faculty, Augusta University

The literature supports that breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer related mortality and with higher rates of cervical cancer mortality among Hispanic women as compared to non-Hispanics. In this session, panelists will address cancer-screening disparities, education needs and a web-based bilingual and culturally appropriate interactive digital tool for clinic operations that allows Hispanic women to participate in a self-assessment of their breast and cervical cancer screening needs while removing the language barrier and facilitating communication with healthcare providers.

**Gabrielle Helfgott**, DNP, CNM – Certified Nurse Midwife AU Medical Center, Dept. OBGYN

**Emily Bailey**, DNPc – RN employed at AU Medical Center in the Cardiac Care Unit

**Lauren Tiernan**, DNPc - RN at Augusta Univ. Health Center, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit

**Tamara Coleman**, DNPc - RN & part-time clinical instructor at AU College of Nursing.

**Monique Germany**, DNPc – RN at Augusta Veterans Administration Medical Center.

## Americas Council Permanent Members



DR. JOSÉ DE ARIMATÉIA DA CRUZ, PH.D.

*Professor of International Relations and Comparative Politics  
Georgia Southern University*



DR. GEORGE DANNS, PH.D.

*Professor of Sociology  
University of North Georgia*



DR. DONNA DANNS, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of Economics  
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MS. PRISCILLA DODDS, MA

*Associate Professor of Computer Sciences  
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MR. W. ERNIE GUYTON, MA

*Associate Professor of Cultural & Behavioral Science  
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DR. LUISE STRANGE DE SORIA, PH.D.

*Professor of Chemistry  
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DR. ALVARO TORRES-CALDERÓN, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of Spanish  
University of North Georgia*



DR. HEATHER J. CHIERO, PH.D.

*Associate Professor of History  
Augusta University*

## Closing of the 22nd Annual Conference of the Americas

2:30 – 4:00 pm Americas Council Spring Business Meeting JSAC Ballroom

*Faculty welcome—Come join the Americas Council and help in the planning process as the conference moves to the University of North Georgia next year.*

*Congratulations to Drs. Donna and George Danns for being selected to be next year's conference hosts!*

### Special Thanks to each of the following:

- \* To the Americas Council members for continuing the mission of furthering the spread of knowledge about the Americas and supporting research and scholarship at all levels;
- \* The University System of Georgia's International Education Regional Council (SCIE) for creating the World Councils;
- \* Luise Strange de Soria of GSU for handling all communications, general inquiries, and more;
- \* To our AU moderators for volunteering to run the sessions: P. Cromer; J. Walker, C. Botero, J. Wall, H. Van Tuyll, G. Biasetti, and G Masse
- \* Huge thanks to contributions from Augusta University: Advisement Center, Career Services, CURS, Experiential Learning, ACS, Jagstore, Registrar, Pamplin Dean's Office and supplies/printing from EFL and HAP;
- \* To Sodexo on Augusta University campus for the catering, especially Ms. Makeisha Lowe;
- \* To our community members and supporters, we appreciate your interest and participation;
- \* To our many faculty, staff, and Pamplin Student Ambassadors for their time and energy helping this event run as smoothly as possible;
- \* To our presenters, pianists, and visitors from out of town for their energy and effort coming to the CSRA (Augusta), we hope to see you at the 23rd Conference on the Americas!

**Check out the Americas Council homepage at**

**<https://www.augusta.edu/pamplin/hist-anth-phil/americas-council/index.php>**

**On Twitter at <https://twitter.com/AmericasCouncil>**

**On Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/americascouncil/>**

**And, on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AmericasCouncil/>**

**Share your photos and your thoughts at #2019AmericasGA**



1:30– 2:30 pm Session 1B Butler Room

Panel Title: **21st Century Concerns: US, Caribbean, Latin America**

Moderator: **Hubert Van Tuyll**, faculty, Augusta University

**Donna E. Danns**, faculty, University of North Georgia, Gainesville, Georgia

**George K. Danns**, faculty, University of North Georgia, Gainesville, Georgia

Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Countries: A Case Study of the Town of Linden, Guyana

Youth entrepreneurship is being promoted by international organizations, regional agencies and national policy makers as a key strategy for countries to combat high youth unemployment and reduce individual poverty. This paper pinpointed the challenges faced by youth entrepreneurs in the Town of Linden, Guyana and examined the programs for overcoming these. Data is derived from a survey of youth entrepreneurs and interviews with agencies which provide support.

**Yolanda Machado-Escudero**, PhD candidate, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Detentions and Deportations in Rural Northeast Georgia: Implications for Latina Immigrants, their Families, and Communities

Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids have adversely impacted our Latino immigrant community in Rural Northeast Georgia. The aftermath of deportations translates into a major role- shifting for most Latina women, who are forcibly joining the workforce to provide for the lost income and support their families. This research emphasizes on Latina immigrants defying their own risk of detention and deportation by sharing *conocimiento* (knowledge), *conscientización* (consciousness' awareness), resilience, and resistance, individually and collectively.

2:30 – 2:45 pm Coffee Break JSAC Coffeehouse

2:45 – 3:45 pm Session 2A Coffeehouse

Panel Title: **Language Learning and Cultural Intersections in the Americas**

Moderator: **Chris Botero**, faculty, Augusta University

**Kristi Hislope**, faculty, University of North Georgia, Dahlonega, Georgia

A Linguistic Study of the Signage in Plaza Fiesta and Buford Highway in Atlanta

This interdisciplinary linguistic landscape study from the fields of linguistics and sociology examined how languages on business signs were presented and how language presentation reflects the relationships among immigrant and non-immigrant groups. Traditional Spanish language programs have been founded in four semesters of basic and intermediate grammar with a nod to culture and perhaps some short reading selections. This paper explores the evolving curricular trends in Spanish language programs in Georgia today.

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**Elizabeth Combier**, faculty, University of North Georgia, Dahlonega, Georgia  
Curricular Trends of University Spanish Language Programs in Georgia Today

Language learners of Spanish are steadily packing university classrooms in Georgia. According to the Pew Research Center, 9% of Georgia's population is Hispanic with about 923,000 in residence. Those numbers are increasing, as is the likelihood that our students will have the opportunity, and perhaps the necessity, to understand Spanish language and culture as they move into the professional environment after graduation. What is the status of Spanish language programs in Georgia and how are we preparing our students for the future?

**Karen Guffey**, faculty, Georgia State College, Atlanta, Georgia  
Hispanic Culture: Is it in the DNA?

Recent DNA studies have shown that the Irish have no Celtic DNA. That study has caused Celticists to suggest that Latin Americans might prove to have little Spanish DNA. The comparison is flawed for various reasons, and studies show that Latin Americans do indeed have Spanish DNA. Television commercials for the DNA companies suggest that DNA and culture are strongly related, but we have ample cause to question that implication, which we will do with a comparison of Celtic heritage/DNA and Latin American heritage/DNA.

2:45 – 3:45 pm                      Session 2B                      Butler Room

Panel Title                      **Spanish Language Session**  
Moderator:                      **Giada Biassetti**, faculty, Augusta University

**Álvaro Torres-Calderón**, faculty, University of North Georgia, Dahlonega, Georgia  
La posmodernidad y el género en la narrativa de Gioconda Belli y Daína Chaviano

El presente ensayo presenta la ruptura de estereotipos en torno a la reflexión sobre la narrativa de dos escritoras: la nicaragüense Gioconda Belli y la cubana-americana Daína Chaviano. El objetivo es analizar en el marco de la posmodernidad el concepto de la identidad como parte de su narrativa hispanoamericana y más allá de ésta. Las escritoras buscan democratizar la discusión del tema del género, usando la fantasía, el sarcasmo y la ironía.

**Pedro Hoyos-Salcedo**, faculty, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia  
Venezuela antes del 23 de enero, 2019 y Venezuela después del 23 de enero, 2019

Esta presentación se refiere a la situación política, social y económica de Venezuela durante los últimos 20 años. El sistema anti democrático establecido por el dictador Hugo Chávez Frías, durante 14 años, un mes, y continuado por el dictador Nicolás Maduro Moros durante cinco años, nueve meses, ha destruido las instituciones gubernamentales, la sociedad civil y política, y las infraestructuras de las ciudades. Todo este caos está cambiando cuando se nombra al presidente constitucional interino de Venezuela Juan Guaidó.

12:00 - 1:00 pm                      Lunch is Served                      JSAC Ballroom

1:00 – 2:15 pm                      General Session/Keynote                      JSAC Ballroom

**Welcome:**                      José de Arimatéia da Cruz, Chair, Americas Council

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker:**                      H. J. Chiero, Conference Organizer, Americas Council

**Keynote Address:**

**Sergio Quesada**, PhD, University of Georgia, Anthropology & LACSI Undergraduate Coordinator/  
 Senior Academic Professional at The University of Georgia

Not all immigration results from poverty or drug and gang violence. I discuss how a 1990's (pre-NAFTA) World Bank-financed hydroelectric project in rural Mexico forced the resettlement of Mexican peasants and their later migration to the U.S. This smaller-scale project reveals an intertwining of Mexico's economic and political development and U.S. interests, which can be viewed as a forewarning for the large-scale immigration issues occurring now on the US/Mexican border and within the U.S.



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paradigms in the post-modern and post-structural geographic fade, presents nature as a social construct. It is between these Cartesian or Spinozan dogmas that mountains continue as targets for geographical inquiry. Using case studies from different sacred mountains in the Andes, I argue for integrating geocritical analyses in favor of Montology.

**Rachel D. Harris**, PhD Candidate., Romance Languages, University of Georgia

The Interfaces of Ixcanul: Blurring Linguistic and Epistemological Boundaries in Highland Guatemala through Feminized Mayan Mountainscapes

The film *Ixcanul* (2015) presents a microcosm of the current situation for indigenous women in the Guatemalan mountains. This presentation investigates how this reality is composed of interfaces that blur the hegemonic binarisms of language, gender, and epistemology. All revolves around the figure of the volcano and human-nature relationships. These relationships produce an illusion of a “third border-space” that constitutes those interfaces, which represent the fragile link between indigenous communities and Latin American mountainscapes.

10:30 – 11:45 am

Session 4B

Butler Room

Panel Title: **Latino/a Activism & Immigrant Concerns: 1960s-2010s**

Moderator: **James Wall**, faculty, Augusta University

**Jasmin Lopez**, Honors Program, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

The Fight for Identity: A Cultural Genocide of Mexican-Americans, the 1960's—1970's

Determined to surpass the nearly unattainable progress older generations had sculpted, young adults channeled their voices into the Chicano Movement. Were Mexican-Americans a threat to peace and order established by law? Did any political party truly capture the this minority group's demands? Because Hispanic culture was ripped out by xenophobia, Mexican-American youths fought to be heard on the civil rights agenda during the 1960's and 1970's, triggering a unique boom of Hispanic activism across the state of Texas.

**Dana Maller**, Honors Program, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, Georgia

Necessary Gaps: The Deconstruction of the Contemporary Mexican Novel

Examining three contemporary Mexican novels, this paper traces the confrontation of structural elements through the deconstruction of a text's understood “reality.” Although literature appears to construct reality through the presentation of objects in relation, rather than a concrete or fundamental truth, it is the spaces between these juxtapositions that shapes a text. This allows a text to consciously deconstruct itself and its imbued “reality” to put purposeful gaps, ambiguity and rejection of assumed relations at the center of text's meaning.

4:00-4:30pm

Special Session

JSAC Ballroom

Piano Duet

Four hands, one piano. Music by Astor Piazzolla (Argentina) tango.

**Martin David Jones**, DMA, Music, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

**Clara Park**, DMA, Music, Augusta University, Augusta, Georgia

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) was an Argentinean composer who is often referred to as the “Tango King”. He was an accomplished performer on the Bandoneon, performing in countless chamber music style groups throughout his career. His contribution to the tango idiom, called Nuevo Tango, was revolutionary in its unique sound and inclusion of jazz improvisation. Martin David Jones and Clara Park will perform several of his tangos arranged for four hand piano.

5:30pm-7:30pm

Dinner Out as a Group

Taqueria El Rey

*Join us for an informal dinner of good food and good times in a local restaurant to continue conversations, networking, and creating new opportunities for future collaboration. Advance notice kindly requested of the presence of you and any guests to Dr. Chiero at [hchiero@augusta.edu](mailto:hchiero@augusta.edu). Attendees responsible for their own transportation and meal costs (let me know if you need to carpool).*

*Taqueria El Rey, 3830 Washington Rd #25, Martinez, GA 30907 (762) 994-0483*

## Saturday, February 23, 2019

8:00 – 2:00 pm

Registration

Table Outside JSAC Ballroom

9:00 – 10:15 am

Session 3A

JSAC Coffeehouse

Panel Title:

**Interdisciplinarity & Health issues in U.S. & Latin America**

Moderator:

**José de Arimatéia da Cruz**, Chair, Americas Council

**José de Arimatéia da Cruz**, faculty, Georgia Southern University—Armstrong, Savannah, Georgia

Public Health, National Security and the Americas

This paper examines the latest epidemic breaks out in the Americas and what does it mean for the national security of the Americas. The paper pays particular attention to the economic, social, and political implications of a pandemic outbreak and what it means to the the America's armed forces.

**Kercia Rocha Andrade**, PhD candidate, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

**Jane McPherson**, faculty, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Multiprofessional Health Residency Program in Brazil: Main Challenges to Social Work

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Multiprofessional Health Residency (MHR) is a Brazilian postgraduate training program for health care professionals. Social workers engage with hospitalized clients to promote social wellbeing; to complete their socioeconomic profiles; to provide health education; and to explain their rights. In multidisciplinary clinical case conferences, they provide the data so that all professionals can understand their clients in social and economic context. Results show that the role of Social Work is fundamental to this program.

**Amy Baldwin**, faculty, Augusta University/UGA Medical Partnership, Augusta, Georgia

The path less traveled: Complications & lessons learned in an ongoing interdisciplinary, international collaboration in Grenada, WI

Promoting women's health requires a deep understanding of the issues and barriers involved. Much can be learned by comparing and contrasting similar yet different cultural contexts for women in Grenada, WI and Georgia, USA. This project was formally established in January, 2017 between academic, governmental and non-governmental organizations. In this session, we will discuss building relationships, laying groundwork, challenges and lessons learned for our interdisciplinary, long-term women's health initiative.

9:00 – 10:15 am                      Session 3B                      Butler Room

**Panel Title:**                      La Naturaleza: Place, Technology & Peoples in the Caribbean Basin

**Moderator:**                      H. J. Chiero, faculty, Augusta University

**Ernie Guyton**, faculty, Georgia State University—Perimeter College, Clarkston, Georgia

**Priscilla Dodds**, faculty, Georgia State University—Perimeter College, Clarkston, Georgia

Ancient Maya civilization, and the new use of LiDAR technology to discover ancient ruins

The paper we present will give participants an updated look at Ancient Classic Maya civilization in general (for history and culture interests). Also, we will introduce for most participants the exciting new archaeology tool called LiDAR (*Light Detection and Ranging equipment*); a new remote sensing technology that “peels back” jungle vegetation to reveal ancient ruins hiding underneath; exposing buildings, roads and other human structures. It is truly a big leap forward for archaeology in general in tropical and subtropical regions of the world.

**David O'Hara**, faculty, Augustana University, Sioux Falls, North Dakota

Fragments of Maya Philosophy: Indigenous Eco-Philosophy of Don Reginaldo Chayax Huex

Don Reginaldo Chayax Huex is one of only half a dozen people who grew up hearing the Maya Itzá language spoken. Now in his eighties, Don Reginaldo has dedicated his life to preserving his ancestral language, culture, and rainforest in the Petén Department of northeastern Guatemala. For the last decade, Dr. David O'Hara has worked with the Asociación Bio-Itzá that Don Reginaldo founded. Dr. O'Hara's lecture will give a picture of the work of Don Reginaldo, includ-

ing his successes and the challenges that lie ahead; and some “fragments” of both the Itzá language and the eco-philosophy that Don Reginaldo hopes to pass on to the next generation.

**Karen Williams-Jones**, faculty, Georgia State Univ.—Perimeter College, Clarkston, Georgia

Reading the Natural World in Mayra Montero's La última noche que pasó contigo

The lyrics of the bolero give rise to fields of polarized energy shifting between love and hate in Mayra Montero's, *La última noche que pasó contigo* (1991). Mirroring the historical consumption of natural resources, people and culture, Celia and Fernando seek to escape the boredom of “modernity” in order to penetrate the dark pre-colonial primitivism of the Caribbean Islands producing a fear of Afro-Caribbeans and themselves, unveiling a crisis that puts into question the intersection of race, class and sexuality.

10:15 – 10:30 am                      Coffee Break                      JSAC Ballroom

10:30 – 11:45 am                      Session 4A                      Coffeehouse

**Panel Title:** Biocultural Spatialities in Latin American Highlands: Language, Aesthetics, Geopoetics

**Moderator:**                      Fausto O. Sarmiento, faculty, University of Georgia

This panel proposes alternative post-Cartesian and (de)colonial modes of examining biocultural spatialities, shedding light into conservation, protection, and curation of biocultural heritage and biodiversity. In Latin America, complex environmental and cultural dilemmas reflect a post-colonial turn in the way we understand human-environmental couplings. We propose a framework to surmount positivistic and reductionistic approaches for geospatial inquiry arguing that culture provides meaning and imbues mountain phenomena with a sense of landscape through language, aesthetics and poetics.

**Juan S. Camargo**, PhD Candidate, Romance Languages, University of Georgia

Geopoetics of Spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) Biocultural Narratives: interweaving conservation efforts and post-colonial Andean epistemologies

Human-wildlife conflicts symbolize territorial configurations through *geopoetics*. Andean bear's major threat is habitat loss and fragmentation by expansion of agricultural frontier. A geocritical approach reveals that biological and cultural couplings are an underlying yet fragile fabric of the eco-social palimpsest. Cultural representations of the species are a form of post-colonial (re)creation, where issues of national identity, Andean place-making, and political ecology are also at stakes and dialogue with Latin American early lettered ecological thought.

**Fausto O. Sarmiento**, PhD, Director of the Neotropical Montology Collaboratory.

University of Georgia - Dept. of Geography

The Montology Manifesto: Towards a Transdisciplinary Science of Mountain Studies.

Mountains aided civilization as archetype, framing meta-geographies about the vertical dimension on people's minds. Mountain metaphors remain guiding most cultural endeavors. This crash of