



NECLAS 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

**Borders, Crossings, & Environments: Narratives,
Archives, and Encounters**

November 7-8, 2025

University of Vermont

Waterman Building

85 S. Prospect St.

Burlington, Vermont



The University of Vermont
HUMANITIES CENTER



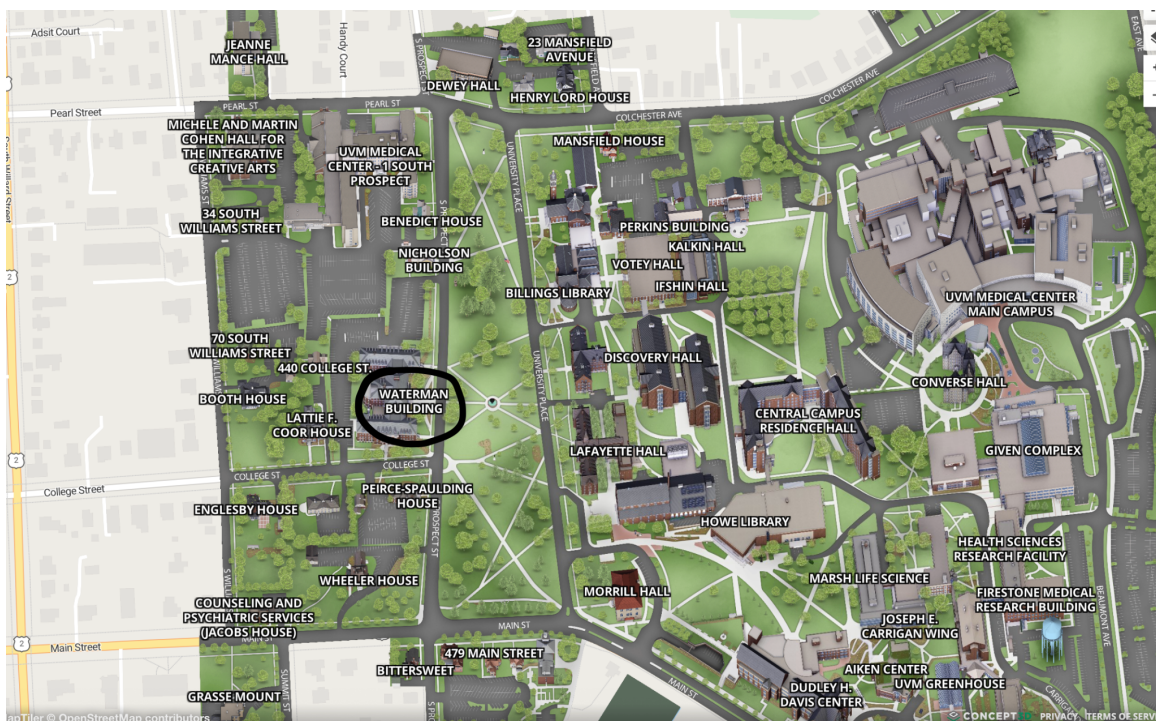
Directions to UVM

Directions from I 89 or Airport: Drive down Main Street, go past the Green and turn right onto Prospect Street. From this point on, there will be NECLAS signs you can follow. Continue one block down Prospect and turn left onto College Street. The parking lot is immediately on your right.

Directions from hotels downtown: Drive up College Street. Once you pass William Street and the green is visible ahead, the parking lot is immediately on your left. There will be NECLAS signs on College Street that you can follow.

All conference activities will take place in the Waterman Building (see map).

Campus map



Parking at UVM

There is free parking on Saturday in the lot immediately adjacent to the Waterman Building (entrance on College Street). If you plan to attend the welcome ceremony on Friday, you can look for street parking, but if you want to park on campus in the lot adjacent to the Waterman Building (see map and info in the attached program), we need your license plate number (including the state where your car is registered). Please send it to:

mwoolson@uvm.edu

WiFi at UVM

GuestNet provides an easy way for visitors to UVM to gain access to wireless internet service, computer labs and SharePoint based web services.

You can connect to the 'UVM Guest' wireless network from your device. You'll either be prompted by your operating system with a registration screen or you'll have to attempt to visit a website to cause the prompt to be served. See instructions on the following page. There will be signs in the registration area as well.

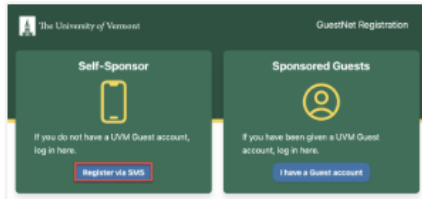
This is an open network and users must take appropriate precautions to protect their own devices and their own communications, if those communications are sensitive.

1. Connect your device to the **UVM Guest** network. When you do, a UVM Guest captive portal window should appear.

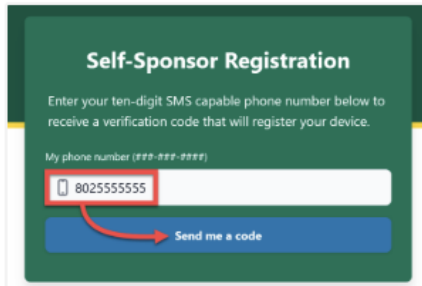
Captive portal not appearing?

If a captive portal window does not appear, you may need to open a web browser on your device.

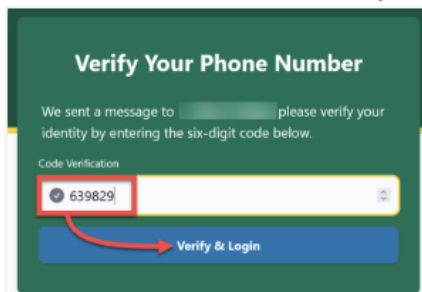
2. Under **Self-Sponsor**, click **Register via SMS**.



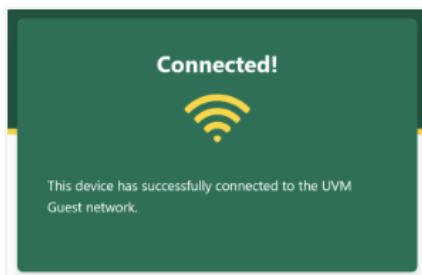
3. Enter your 10 digit phone number, and then click **Send me a code**.



4. Your mobile phone should receive an SMS text message containing a six-digit confirmation code.
5. Enter the code, and then click **Verify & Login**.



6. You should now be connected to the UVM Guest network!



Friday, November 7, 2025

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm **Executive Committee Meeting**
 Waterman Building room 427A (4th floor)

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm **Welcome ceremony**
 Waterman Building Memorial Lounge (3rd floor)

- Welcome address by SWLC Director **Joseph Acquisto**
- Poetry readings (in Spanish)
 - **Claudia Becerra** (UVM)
 - **Tina Escaja** (UVM)
 - **Gloria Gonzalez** (Middlebury College)
- Presentation and salsa dance show by UVM Latino student organization **Alianza Latina**
- poster session featuring UVM's work on Latin American & Latino topics

7:15 pm Executive Committee Dinner (invitation only)
 American Flatbread
 115 St. Paul Street
 Burlington, VT

Saturday, November 8, 2025

8:00–9:00 AM Registration
Continental Breakfast
 Waterman Building Memorial Lounge, 3rd floor
Registration will be in the entry hallway outside the lounge

8:45–9:00 AM Opening Remarks

Lisa Maya Knauer, President, NECLAS
Waterman Building Memorial Lounge

Session One: 9:00-10:30 AM

PANEL 1.1: Embodying Latin American Border-Crossings in Cultural, Generational and Gender Divides

Room 400

Chair: Julia Kushigian, Ph.D., Connecticut College

- Embodying Latin American Border-Crossings in Cultural, Generational and Gender Divides: Meruane and Jeftanovic's War Zones
Julia Kushigian, Ph.D., Connecticut College
- The Homeland Calls Twice: Autoethnography, Memory, and the Unión Árabe de Cuba.
Silvia Marsans-Sakly, Ph.D., Fairfield University
- Crossing the Pacific: Lima's First Asian Generations, 1530s-1655
Leo Garofolo, Ph.D., Connecticut College

PANEL 1.2: Philosophy, Forests, and Healing: Reimagining Human Ecology Across the Americas

Room 401

Chair: **Ricardo Friaiz, Ph.D.**, Central Connecticut State University

- Indigenous American Philosophy Between Man and Land
Ricardo Friaiz, Ph.D., Central Connecticut State University
- Jesuit Missionary Medicine: Cross-Cultural Healing in colonial Mexico and Brazil
Jessica Rutherford, Ph.D., Central Connecticut State University
- Narrating Southern Bahia's Atlantic Forest
Mary Ann Mahony, Ph.D., Central Connecticut State University
Read by **Robert Alegre, Ph.D.**, University of New England

PANEL 1.3: Telling and Teaching Latin American Stories Through Multiple Media Format: From TV to Digital Platforms

Room 457

Chair: TBA

- Streaming Migrant Journeys: Comparing Social Media Videos of Chinese and Latin American Migrants Crossing Mexico to the U.S.
Àngel A. Escamilla García, Ph.D., Yale University
- Teaching Food and World Cultures Through Film: Borders and Desires
Galina Bakhtiarova, Ph.D., Western Connecticut State University
- Monographs, Storytelling, and Primary Sources in the Age of Historical Podcasting
Ricardo R Salazar-Rey, Ph.D., University of Connecticut
- The Politics of Television in Latin America's Developmental Era.
Pablo Pryluka, Ph.D., City College of New York (CUNY)

PANEL 1.4: Colonialities and Representations of Power

Room 458

Chair: **Koichi Hagimoto, Ph.D.**, Wellesley College

- Minor Violations: On the Coloniality of Age and the Global Regulation of Maturity
Rachel McNealis, Ph.D., Canisius University
- Crossing Over: Women's Deaths and the Architecture of Power in Colonial Havana
Bethany M Wade, Ph.D., Sacred Heart University
- Early Modern Cartographic Practices and Eighteenth-Century New Spain Casta Paintings
Evelina Guzauskyte, Ph.D., Wellesley College
- La representación del poder en la imagen del apóstol Santiago en los Andes y Filipinas: Iconografía, patrones y libertad pictográfica
Flor Isabel Palomino Arana, Independent Scholar

10:30-10:45 AM Coffee Break

Food and beverages in the central hallway on the 4th floor

Session Two: 10:45 AM-12:15 PM

Roundtable 2.1: Latin American Migration Studies and Service Learning at UVM

Room 427

Chair: **Sarah Osten, Ph.D., University of Vermont**

Sarah Osten, Ph.D., University of Vermont

Caroline Beer, Ph.D., University of Vermont

Teresa Mares, Ph.D., University of Vermont

Jill Martin Díaz, J.D., Vermont Asylum Assistance Project

Brett Stokes, J.D., Vermont Law and Graduate School

Liv Berelson, Vermont Asylum Assistance Project

Phebe Lowry, University of Vermont Undergraduate

Will Oliver, University of Vermont Undergraduate

PANEL 2.2: U.S.-Mexico Borderlands: Settler Colonialism, Media, and Ecology

Room 401

Chair: **Robert Alegre, Ph.D., University of New England**

- Selling Tierra Perfecta: The International Company of Mexico and the Construction of Settler Colonialism in the Baja Peninsula, 1883-1893
Erik Bernardino, Ph.D., Bates College
- Gazing at the Border, Subverting Surveillance in María Novaro's *Jardín del Edén* (1994)
Daniel Chávez, Ph.D., University of New Hampshire
- Anxious Affairs: On Vultures, Excrement, and Border Corrosion
Orlando Ochoa, Jr., New York University
- La frontera México-Estados Unidos: del "muro" a la "invasión" (2016-2025)
Maria R. Matz, Ph.D., UMass Lowell

Panel 2.3: Indigenous Ecologies, Epistemologies, and Sociopolitical Expressions

Room 457

Chair: **Lisa Maya Knauer**, PhD. University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

- Ch'ixi Ecologies: Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui and Bolivia's Ley de Derechos de la Madre Tierra
Robert T.F. Downes, University of Connecticut
- Andean Rap, Performance, and Social Media: From Material Streets to Virtual Clouds
Tara Daly, Ph.D., Marquette University and Irina Feldman, Ph.D., Middlebury College
- Huelgas, Diabladas, and the National-Popular: Gran Poder and Carnaval in Twentieth Century Bolivia
Elena McGrath, Ph.D., Union College
- The Form and Content of Environmental Denunciation in Fiction and Documentary Cinema: Utama and In the Name of Lithium
Celia Barabanov, Middlebury College

Panel 2.4: Agency and Resistance in Latin American Literature: Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Argentina

Room 458

Chair: **Rocio Fuentes**

- The Undead of History: Agency and Immortality in Marina Yuszczuk's Thirst
Claudia Schaefer, Ph.D., University of Rochester
- Fictions of the Apocalypse: The Commodification of Terror and Catastrophe in Fernanda Melchor's *This is Not Miami*
Raúl Rodríguez-Hernández, Ph.D., University of Rochester
- The Enigma of Crime and Truth in Claudia Piñeiro's Writings
Lori Hopkins, Ph.D., University of New Hampshire
- El viaje interior y la alegoría en la primera novela puertorriqueña: *La Antigua Sirena* de Alejandro Tapia y Rivera
Ángel Rivera, Ph.D., Worcester Polytechnic Institute

12:15-2:00 PM
Awards Luncheon

- Remarks:** NECLAS President **Lisa Maya Knauer**,
 Associate Professor of Sociology and
 Anthropology, University of Massachusetts,
 Dartmouth
- Conference Welcome:** UVM Head of research **Pablo Bose**
- Media Challenges: A Personal Journey:** **June Erlick**
 Harvard's ReVista editor, writer and former
 Central American journalist
- Awards:** NECLAS Vice President **Robert Alegre**,
 Associate Professor of History, University of
 New England

Session 3: 2:00-3:30 PM

Panel 3.1 Lenguas, relatos y traducción en contextos indígenas:
Representaciones y resistencias desde el purépecha y Rapa Nui
Room 427

Chair: **Nayelli Castro-Ramírez, Ph.D.**, University of Massachusetts-Boston

- "Presencia global de la lengua purépecha: Traducción y representación más allá de las fronteras"
Iris Calderón-Téllez, Ph.D., Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo
- "El proyecto Andersen en purépecha: Revitalización lingüística, transdisciplinariedad y traducción cultural"
Lorena Ojeda-Dávila, Ph.D., Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo/Yale University
- "Historiografía michoacana: Géneros, lenguas y espacios de un palimpsesto"
Nayelli Castro-Ramírez, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts-Boston

- A Dialogue Across Knowledge Systems. Engaging Decolonial Critical Frameworks for Archiving Rapa Nui Language and Cultural Resources
Maria Alessandra Woolson, Ph.D., University of Vermont and **Max Ivry**, Freelance Full-Stack/AI Software Developer
- How Does Guaranteeing a Decolonial Approach to Web App Development and Data Sovereignty Intersect in Practice?
Maria Alessandra Woolson, Ph.D., University of Vermont and **Max Ivry**, Freelance Full-Stack/AI Software Developer

PANEL 3.2 : Narratives, Critiques, Representations, and Agency
Room 401

Chair: **Lisa Maya Knauer, PhD.** University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

- **POSTER:** The Impact of Disability on People's Migration Stories: Voices from Nogales, Sonora, Mexico
Carolyn Coe, University of Maine
- "Message from Mexico:" Transnational Solidarity and Sexual Revolution in Mexico's Lesbian and Gay Liberation Movement
Ryan M. Jones, Ph.D., State University of New York Geneseo
- Representing Mayanness in New Bedford: The Travels of *Traje Típico*
Lisa Maya Knauer, Ph.D., UMass Dartmouth
- **BOOK PRESENTATION:** *Realidad Mitigada*
Tina Escaja, Ph.D., University of Vermont

Panel 3.3: Environment, Political Economy, and Multiple Dimensions of Violence

Room 457

Chair: **Peter Klein, Ph.D.**, Bard College

- Frontlines of Environmental News Coverage: Crossing Professional Communication Boundaries to Bridge Emergent Challenges of "Doing" Journalism
Paola Prado, Ph.D., Roger Williams University and **Nivea Canalli Bona, Ph.D.**, Boston University

- The Favela and the Sea: Intersecting Violences in Rio de Janeiro
Peter Klein, Ph.D., Bard College
- Fiscal Crises and the Development of Brazil's Fiscal Capacity
Rodrigo Cantu, Ph.D., Bard College
- The Entanglements of Violence in Latin America's Protests in the 21st Century
Simone da Silva Ribeiro Gomes, Ph.D., Universidade Federal de Pelotas UFPel

Session 4: 3:30-5:00 PM

PANEL 4.1: The Burning Spirit Project: Centering Silenced Voices of Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Women Writers, Thinkers, and Creators

Room 400

Chair: **Rocío Fuentes, Ph.D.**, Central Connecticut State University

- "The Burning Spirit Project"
Rocío Fuentes, Ph.D., and **Maria Lourdes Casas, Ph.D.**, Central Connecticut State University
- "Fighting for your voice: Identity, Gender, and Race in the work of Sylvia Rivera and Victoria Santa Cruz"
Noemí Martín-Santo, Ph.D., Central Connecticut State University
- "Feminist Approaches to Female Subjects in *La caja de Bagdad*, de Reina María Rodríguez"
Eylin Lombard-Cabrera, Ph.D., Central Connecticut State University
- "Estéticas del silencio en Dolores Veintemilla y Marietta de Veintimilla"
Juan Carlos Grijalva, Ph.D., Assumption University

Panel 4.2: The Southern Cone: Human Rights, Art, and U.S. Diplomacy **Room 401**

Chair: **Nayelli Castro-Ramírez, Ph.D.**, University of Massachusetts-Boston

- Argumento a favor de la existencia de vida inteligente en el cono sur
Adriana Pitetta, Ph.D., Mount Holyoke College
- Earthquake Diplomacy: Elihu Root and the Promise and Tragedy of Chile-U.S. Relations, 1906-1907
Christopher M. Sterba, Ph.D., San Francisco State University
- An Unsettled Past: Memory and the Future of Democracy in Argentina
Guillermina Seri, Ph.D., Union College

5:00-6:30 Reception/Networking

Waterman Building Memorial Lounge, 3rd floor
Light refreshments (and possibly a student musical group)

Prizes

Marysa Navarro Best Book Prize

Dr. Rachel Nolan *Until I Find You: Disappeared Children and Coercive Adoptions in Guatemala* (Harvard University Press, 2024)

Until I Find You draws on adoption files, police records, court cases, and interviews to show how international adoption from Guatemala were linked to local and national political violence. By centering the experiences of parents and children who have been separated and disappeared as a result of international adoption, Nolan provides a new angle to understand the decades-long civil war effect on families and communities. This is a major contribution to recent Guatemalan history.

Joseph T. Criscenti Best Article Prize (tie for first place)

Jacob Blanc, *Memory Scripts and Life History in the Shadow of Brazil's Dictatorship*. *Journal of Latin American Studies* (2024), 56, 279–303

The prize committee was deeply impressed by Blanc's ability to conduct high-quality virtual research despite the constraints imposed by the global pandemic. His work

stands out not only for its methodological rigor but also for its profound relevance in today's world, where historical narratives are increasingly contested and re-written. Blanc's article offers an invaluable contribution by capturing the lived experiences of individuals who endured Brazil's dictatorship, preserving voices that might otherwise be lost. The committee found the work especially significant for its potential to illuminate the complex relationship between memory and history, particularly in the context of traumatic events. We congratulate Jacob Blanc on this well-deserved recognition and celebrate the impact of his scholarship in advancing our understanding of Latin American history and memory.

Ángel A. Escamilla García (08 Oct 2024). The externalization of legal categories: how U.S. immigration law shapes Central American youth migrants' journeys through Mexico, Ethnic and Racial Studies.

García's article is a compelling ethnographic study showing how U.S. immigration law shapes migrants' experiences long before they reach the border. Based on four years of fieldwork with Central American minors, the article reveals how youth internalize U.S. legal categories like asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), which influence their routes, family decisions, and willingness to report violence. Escamilla García introduces the concept of the "externalization of legal categories," illustrating how U.S. laws symbolically govern migrants beyond its borders. The article stands out for its rigorous ethnography, theoretical innovation, and deep human insight, linking abstract policy to lived experience. Richly detailed and politically urgent, it redefines how we understand borders, legality, and human movement.

Digital scholarship/pedagogy (every two years)

First prize: Dr. Bridget V. Franco, *Cinegogía*

Cinegogía is an innovative research and teaching resource that fosters film literacy with a special emphasis on Latin America's diverse cinematographic output. This bilingual platform is the result of an eight-year old-collaboration (the platform went live in 2016) between instructors and researchers at the College of the Holy Cross but aimed at providing a service to the hundreds of scholars who teach Latin American film or use films related to Latin America in their classes. In addition to teaching resources (syllabi and film guides), it provides access to a database of over 600 movies, which can be searched and filtered with different keywords allowing for a relational perspective. The platform is well designed and easy to navigate. Including a section dedicated to video-essays makes it even more original as it veers away from purely textual support

to embrace the moving images not only as an object of study, but also as a means to analyze them.

Honorable Mention: Dr. David Tavárez, *Biyee/Zapotec Time*

This is the companion website to Dr. Tavárez' book *Rethinking Zapotec Time: Cosmology, Ritual, and Resistance in Colonial Mexico*, which won NECLAS's 2022 Marysa Navarro Prize for the Best Book. The website is the result of the collaboration of a team of students, researchers and consultants and was developed in 2023-2024. It gives access to historical resources from Zapotec communities in Oaxaca (songs, testaments, manuals, judicial records) which are currently kept in the Archivo de Indias de Sevilla. By including English and Spanish transcriptions and translations, it opens a rare window to the cultural, legal, and political worlds of 16th century Oaxaca. The documents included are invaluable for researchers and historians of colonial Mexico.

**Multimedia Prize
(every two years)**

Dr. Eilyn Lombard and Jamilia Medina Ríos, *Candela Review*

Candela Review is a visionary digital humanities project committed to amplifying Afro, trans, queer, feminist, and decolonial voices. With a focus on Afro-trans-queer-feminist perspectives, both the blog and the magazine stand as living testimonies to Eilyn Lombard and Jamila Medina Ríos's commitment to sustaining crucial political, pedagogical, and creative dialogues in a time of profound adversity. In short, this online journal offers a powerful platform for marginalized communities to share their stories, ideas, and resistance.

**Best Dissertation Prize
No Award in 2025, Submissions held over to 2026**

NECLAS Leadership

Officers

President (2024-2025):

Lisa Maya Knauer

Sociology and Anthropology University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

lknauer@umassd.edu

Vice President (2024-2025)

Robert Alegre

Latin American History University of New England

ralegre@une.edu

Secretary-Treasurer (2024-25)

Koichi Hagimoto

Spanish Wellesley College

khagimot@wellesley.edu

NECLAS Executive Committee

Hope Bastian

Anthropology

Wheaton College

bastian_hope@wheatoncollege.edu

Rocío Fuentes

Spanish

Central Connecticut State
University

rocio.fuentes@ccsu.edu

Nayelli Castro-Ramirez

Latin American/ Iberian Studies

UMass Boston

nayelli.castro@umb.edu

John Galante

Latin American History

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

jsgalante@wpi.edu

Bridget Franco

Latin America Film Studies

College of the Holy Cross

bfranco@holycross.edu

Wendy Godek

*Department of Politics and
International Relations*

Roger Williams University

wgodek@rwu.edu

Courtney Kurlanska

*Department of Integrative and
Global Studies*

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

cbkurlanska@wpi.edu

David Tavárez

Anthropology

Vassar College

tavarez@vassar.edu

Maria Woolson

Spanish

University of Vermont

maria.woolson@uvm.edu

Ex Officio**Grant Burrier**

Global School | Social Science
& Policy Studies

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

gburrier@wpi.edu

Gina Canepa

National Coalition of
Independent Scholars

ginacanepa@gmail.com

Kenneth Erickson

Political Science

CUNY, Hunter College

kerickso@hunter.cuny.edu

Autumn Quezada-Grant

History/Latin American Studies

Roger Williams University

aquezada-grant@rwu.edu

Julia A. Kushigian

Hispanic Studies Department

Connecticut College

jakus@conncoll.edu

Elizabeth Rivero

Humanities

United States Coast Guard Academy

elizabeth.g.rivero@gmail.com

Cynthia Stone

Spanish

College of the Holy Cross

cstone@holycross.edu

M. Gabriela Torres

Anthropology, Vice Provost,

Academic Affairs

Rhode Island College

mtorres2@ric.edu

Scott Weintraub

Hispanic Studies

University of New Hampshire

scott.weintraub@unh.edu

Local Arrangements and Sponsors

Sponsors: The Humanities Center's Lattie F. Coors Grant
SWLC (School of World Languages and Cultures)

Faculty organizer: Maria Woolson, University of Vermont

Administrative support: Sawyer Zundel

UVM Student staff

Logistics: Rhiannon Hubbard

Tech support: Alexander Alvarez
Mateo Castellanos

Registration: Agustina Beiro
Lucía Zapirain

NECLAS Staff

Melody Lozano

Administrative Assistant
New England Council on Latin American Studies
Coordinator, Latin American, Latino, and Caribbean Center
Central Connecticut State University



NECLAS

NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

neclas.sec@gmail.com

www.neclas.lat

Department of Political Science

Pendleton Hall East

106 Central Street

Wellesley, MA 02481