NECLAS

NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

NECLAS 2026
ANNUAL MEETING

Latin American and Latinx Communities Across Disciplines, Spaces, and Languages

November 6-7, 2026

Wellesley College
106 Central St,
Wellesley, MA

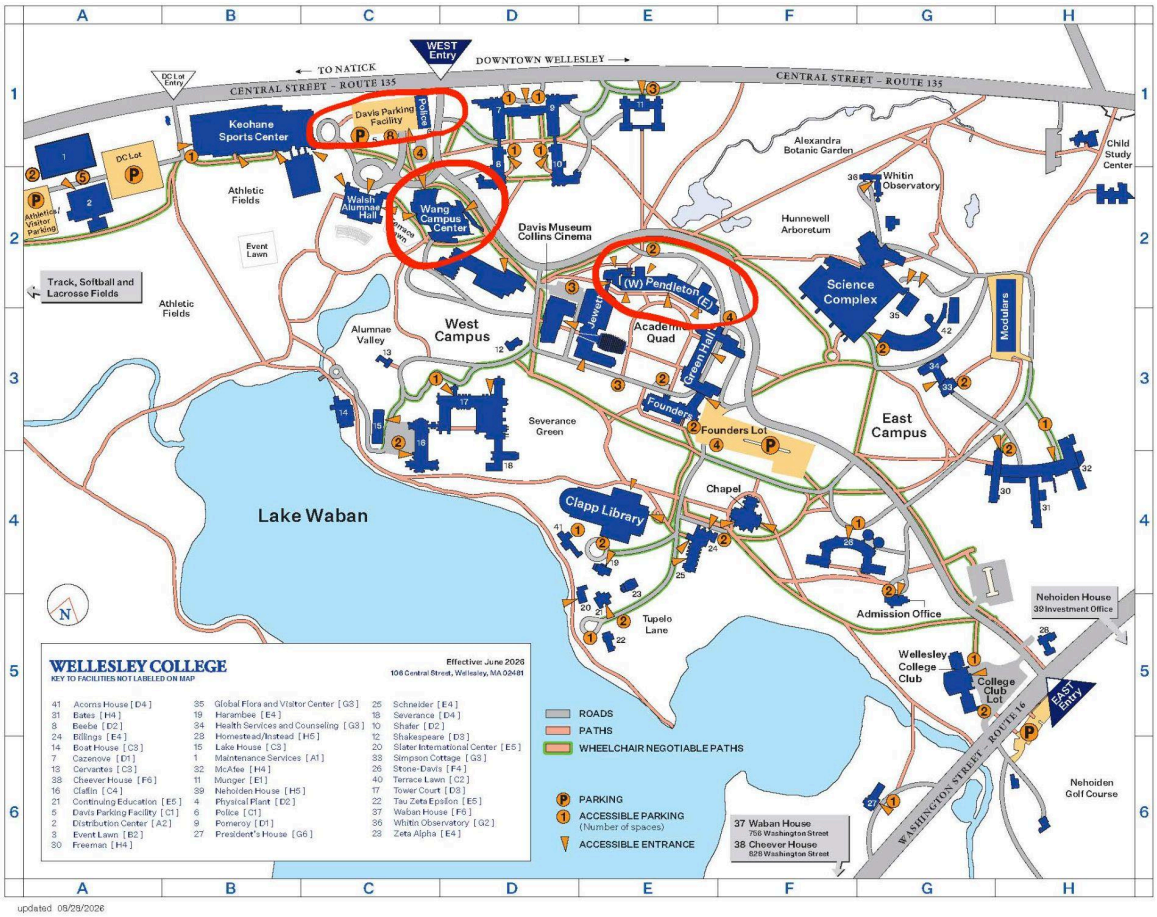
WELLESLEY

Directions to Wellesley College

Below is a map of the Wellesley College campus. An interactive map can be found here.

If driving to campus, you will want to arrive via the west entrance on Route 135 (Central Street), Wellesley. The conference will take place in two buildings on campus, **the Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center (Lulu)** and **Pendleton Hall East (Pendleton)**, both circled below. Note that the walk from the "Lulu" to Pendleton Hall East is about 5 minutes.

If you are traveling by train from Boston, take the commuter rail, Framingham/Worcester line, from South Station to Wellesley Square. From there, you may walk to campus (15 minutes) or use a ride-hailing app.



Parking at Wellesley College

From the west entrance to the college, Route 135 (Central Street), Wellesley, take your first right to turn into the parking garage. From the garage, walk out on the main level, past a small parking lot on your left. Cross the road and proceed across the bridge to the main door for entry into **Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center**. Registration will be at the booth immediately to your left as you come in the main door.

WiFi at Wellesley

You may access WiFi by selecting “Guest” from your device’s available WiFi settings.

Friday, November 6, 2026

3:00-7:00 PM: Registration
Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center, Main Level

3:00-4:00 PM: Executive Committee Meeting
Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center, Room 415
Virtual option available

Session 1: 4:30-6:00 PM

Panel 1.1: Exposición de los trabajos realizados por estudiantes de Wellesley College
Room: Lulu 210
Chair: Koichi Hagimoto, Ph.D., *Wellesley College*

- **La representación de la cultura dominicana en *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***
  Joyce Ma ‘29, *Wellesley College*
- **Ley 116: La colonización del cuerpo en Puerto Rico**
  Niharika Wangikar ‘28, *Wellesley College*
- **El arte público como puente para la participación comunitaria: Una exploración de las metodologías curatoriales en paisajes urbanos**
  Regina Gallardo ‘23, *Wellesley College/Harvard University*

Panel 1.2: Mobilities and Community Engagement
Room: Lulu 413
Chair: Nayelli Castro Ramírez, Ph.D., *UMass Boston*

- **From Brazil to the U.S.: The Reconfiguration of Privilege and Racial Identity Among Brazilian Immigrants**
  Beatriz Torres do Nascimento, *University of Connecticut*
- **What Does It Mean to Meaningfully Engage with a Community? An Archaeological Perspective from Fieldwork in Honduras**
  Marcos S. Ramos Valdes, *Cornell University*
- **“Migration Sells”: The Migrant Influencer as Hidden Persuader and Counter-Public**
  Kaitlin Thomas, Ph.D., *Norwich University*

Workshop 1.3: Democratizing History through Craft: Making and the Power of Human Intelligence (H.I.)
Room: Lulu 415
Workshop leader: Elena Jackson Albarrán, Ph.D., *Miami University*

6:00-7:00 PM: Welcome Reception
Tishman Commons
Remarks: Koichi Hagimoto, Professor of Spanish and Director of Latin American Studies, Wellesley College
Performance by the Wellesley student org "Cielito Lindo"

7:30-9:00 PM: EC Dinner (invitation only)
Rani Mahal
27 Grove St, Wellesley, MA 02482

Saturday, November 7, 2026

8:00-9:00 AM: Registration & Continental Breakfast
Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center, Main Level (Registration)
Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center, Tishman Commons (Breakfast)

Session 2: 9:00-10:30 AM

Workshop 2.1: Expert Witnessing in Asylum Cases: Putting Your Research Into Practice
Room: Pendleton 127
Workshop leaders: Lisa Maya Knauer, Ph.D., *University of Massachusetts Dartmouth* and M. Gabriela Torres, Ph.D., *Rhode Island College*

Panel 2.2: State, Society, and Rural Transformation in Latin America
Room: Pendleton 129
Chair: Kenneth Erickson, Ph.D., *Hunter College, CUNY*

- **Small States, Big Stakes: How Panama manages Great Power Competition**
  Grant Burrier, Ph.D., *Worcester Polytechnic Institute*
- **Public Rhetoric and Private Strategy: The World Bank's Relationship with Mexico Through the 1980s Debt Crisis**
  Phillip Purcell, *University of Connecticut*
- **Reimagining André Rebouças's Proposal for a Rural Brazilian Democracy**
  Tshombe Miles, Ph.D., *Baruch College*

- **The Ties That Bind: Family Love, Hope and Determination Despite Captivity in Sergipe and Bahia, 1830-1889**
  Mary Ann Mahony, Ph.D., *Central Connecticut State University*

Panel 2.3: Human Rights, Postmemory and Hybridism in Marjorie Agosin's Work
Room: Pendleton 139
Chair: Robert Alegre, Ph.D., *University of New England*
Discussant: Gina Canepa, Ph.D., *Independent Scholar*

- **Reconocimiento y Witnessing en las memorias de Marjorie Agosin**
  Maria Ester Quintana, Ph.D., *Texas A&M University*
- **Nadia's Story: Marjorie Agosin's Vision of the Other**
  Sara Roy, Ph.D., *Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University*
- **Poetry and Dance: a Collaboration**
  Judy Dworin, *Executive & Artistic Director, Justice Dance Performance Project, Inc.*
- **Spanning Time, Space, and Generations**
  Oana Hergenröther, Ph.D., *University of Graz, Austria*

Panel 2.4: Community, Culture, and Belonging Across Borders
Room: Pendleton 327
Chair: Nayelli Castro-Ramirez, Ph.D., *University of Massachusetts Boston*

- **¡Aquí Estamos! Testimonios of Latine Program Leaders in Sport-Based Youth Development Research**
  Jaime Morales, *University of Connecticut*
- **Presentation of Después del fuego, todavía el sol**
  Luis Jiménez, Ph.D., *University of Massachusetts Boston*
- **Calling Long Distance: Forging a Cross-Cultural Partnership between Rio de Janeiro and Worcester, Massachusetts**
  Timothy Murphy, Ph.D., *Worcester State University*
- **From Michoacán to New England: Día de Muertos, Diaspora, and the Reconstruction of Indigenous Community Across Borders**
  Lorena Ojeda-Davila, *Ph.D., Yale University and Universidad Michocana*

Panel 2.5: Cultural Resistance in Contemporary Latin American Literature and Media
Room: Pendleton 339
Chair: Maria Alessandra Woolson, Ph.D., *University of Vermont*

- **Dejame la puerta entreabierta: Espacio de comunidad y deseo en "Hotel de señoritas" (2001) de Jonathan Rovner**
  María Cisterna Gold, Ph.D., *University of Massachusetts, Boston*

- **Self-translation as a political act and form of resistance and as a buffer against grief in Cristina Rivera Garza's Liliana's Invincible Summer**
  Tanya Pérez-Brennan, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*
- **Spanish-Language Television, Migration, and the Making of Latino Public Culture in the United States**
  Javier Marín, *Tiempo Company*

10:30-10:45 AM: Coffee Break & Poster Sessions
Pendleton Atrium

Poster 1: Mobility and Unequal Adaptation: Lessons on Transport Affordability from the COVID-19 Pandemic in Cusco, Peru
Pendleton Atrium
- Davis Chacon-Hurtado, Ph.D., *University of Connecticut*
- Wilmalis Rodríguez, *University of Connecticut*
- Adrian Frazier, Ph.D., *University of Connecticut*
- Alexandra Paxton, Ph.D., *University of Connecticut*

Poster 2: The Ever-Changing Immigration Experience: An Oral History on the Impacts of Immigration for Connecticut Latine Residents
Una experiencia en cambio constante: una historia oral de los impactos de la inmigración por habitantes latines en Connecticut
Pendleton Atrium
- Sam Arevalo-Hoefer, *University of Connecticut*

Session 3: 10:45 AM-12:15 PM

Panel 3.1: Sustainability and Development in Latin America: Trade, Growth, and Global Challenges
Room: Pendleton 127
Chair: Mary Ann Mahony, Ph.D. *Central Connecticut State University*
- **Guatemala's Hydrocarbon Wildcard: Rethinking the Hierarchy of US National Interest in the Central American Theatre, 1980-1982**
  Richard M. Balzano, Ph.D., *Springfield College & Western New Mexico University*
- **Sustainable Practices and Export Performance in the Wine Industry: The Case of Argentine Wineries**
  Emiliano C. Villanueva, Ph.D., *Eastern Connecticut State University*

- **The Economist with the Conquistador's Name: Hernando de Soto, Daniel Carbonetto, and Peruvian Antipoverty Policy, 1979–1992**
  Sergio Infante, *Yale University*

Panel 3.2: Disputed Sovereignty: Violence on Borders
Room: Pendleton 129
Chair: Wendy Godek, Ph.D., *Roger Williams University*

- **Independence for who? Mayan Sovereignty and the Caste War of Yucatán**
  Jason Saltis, *SUNY New Paltz*
- **Socio-Environmental Conflict in the Muskitia: Coloniality and the Limits of Territorial Recognition**
  Wendy Godek, Ph.D., *Roger Williams University*
- **Documentary Representations of Migration and Environmental Violence in Latin America**
  Maria R. Matz, Ph.D., *University of Massachusetts Lowell*

Roundtable 3.3: Substance Use, Homelessness, and the Limits of Care for Latino Migrant Communities in Fairfield, Connecticut.
Room: Pendleton 139
Chair: Levinson H. Niño-Leal, *Community Health Researcher, Liberation Programs*

- Levinson H. Niño-Leal, *Community Health Researcher, Liberation Programs*
- Alejandra Gutierrez Lara, *Transit Homeless Outreach, Liberation Programs*
- Norberto Rodriguez, *Clear Initiative Outreach Specialist, Liberation Programs*
- Betzaida Rodriguez, *Clear Initiative Outreach Specialist, Liberation Programs*

Panel 3.4: Institutional Obstacles to Struggles for Justice
Room: Pendleton 327
Chair: Maria Alessandra Woolson, Ph.D., *University of Vermont*

- **Swinging Justice: The Plurinational Constitutional Tribunal's (TCP) Pendulum and the Struggle for Constitutionalism. Law, Politics, and Fragile Institutions in Post-Crisis Bolivia**
  Martin Mendoza-Botelho, Ph.D., *Eastern Connecticut State University*
- **Toward a New Explanation of the Liberalization of the Slave Trade in the Spanish Empire, 1760-1804**
  Fidel J. Tavárez, Ph.D., *Queens College, CUNY*

- **Is it torture? Evaluating the Use of Force in U.S. Immigration Detention Compliance Reports**
  Beatriz Aldana Marquez, Ph.D., *University of Connecticut*
- **Immigration Enforcement and Immigrant Health**

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

Panel 3.5: Translation, Power, and Inclusion Across Linguistic Difference
Room: Pendleton 339
Chair: Nayelli Castro-Ramirez, Ph.D., *University of Massachusetts Boston*

- **Parental Challenges in Supporting English Learners in Boston Public Schools**
  Esaú Bustamante, *University of Massachusetts Boston*
- **Teaching in and Through Diversity: Frameworks for Inclusive, Equitable and Just Classrooms**
  María Luisa Parra, Ph.D., *Harvard University*
- **The Linguistic Diversity of Central American Minor Migrants in the U.S. with an Emphasis on Indigenous Languages**
  Ángel Escamilla Garcia, Ph.D., *Yale University*

Panel 3.6 Decolonial Perspectives on Ecology from the French Caribbean
Room: Pendleton 239
Chair: Odile Ferly, Ph.D., *Clark University*

- **Symbolic Significance of the Mangrove in the Work of Maryse Condé**
  Odile Ferly, Ph.D., *Clark University*
- **Chlordecone in Martinique and Guadeloupe: A Historical Perspective**
  Véronique Hélénon, Ph.D., *Roxbury College*
- **(Re)thinking the "ecological crisis": Caribbean Explorations and Ecological Knowledge**
  Mickaella Perina, Ph.D., *UMass Boston*

12:30-2:00 PM: Awards Luncheon
Lulu Chow Wang Campus Center, Tishman Commons
Remarks: NECLAS President Robert Alegre, Associate Professor of History, University of New England
Keynote Speaker: Luis Jiménez, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Massachusetts-Boston
Prize ceremony: NECLAS Vice President Nayelli Castro-Ramirez, Associate Professor of Latin American/Iberian Studies, University of Massachusetts-Boston

Session 4: 2:00-3:30 PM

Roundtable 4.1: Raids, Detention, and Deportation: Testimonies of State Violence from Connecticut's Immigrant Communities
Room: Pendleton 127
Chair: Camilo Ruiz, Ph.D., *University of Connecticut*

- Mirka Dominguez, *Hartford Deportation Defense*
- Heidi Vizcardo, *University of Connecticut*
- Laura Danieluk, *University of Connecticut*
- Minal Faheem, *University of Connecticut*

Panel 4.2: Reimagining Nationalism: Narratives of Healing, Orientalism, and War
Room: Pendleton 129
Chair: Koichi Hagimoto, Ph.D., *Wellesley College*

- **Man or Gorilla: Un adulterio and the Failure of Porfirian Healing**
  George Azcárate, Ph.D., *Vassar College*
- **Revisionist Orientalism: Ramachandra Gowda, Ricardo Güiraldes, and the Indianization of Argentine Literary History (1977-2003)**
  Aarti Smith Madan, Ph.D., *Worcester Polytechnic Institute*
- **Transpacific Displacement: Literary Representations of Japanese Peruvians in U.S. Internment Camps**
  Koichi Hagimoto, Ph.D., *Wellesley College*
- **When 'Latinos' Were White: Race and National Identity in Turn-of-the-Century Latin America**
  John Galante, Ph.D., *Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

Panel 4.3: Rogue Media: Towards Histories of the Unexpected in Sound and Image
Room: Pendleton 139
Chair: Alejandra Bronfman, Ph.D., *University at Albany*

- **Paredon Records and the Misunderstanding of Puerto Rican Nationalism**
  Alejandra Bronfman, Ph.D., *University at Albany*
- **Silence and Audibility in Colombia's Truth Commission Ritual Readings**
  Maria Camila Castro Maldonado, *Cornell University*
- **Aztec Batman and the Iberosfera Labyrinth**
  Daniel Chavez, Ph.D., *University of New Hampshire*

Panel 4.4: Justice for Healthier Communities across Brazil, Mexico, and the U.S. Southern Border
Room: Pendleton 327
Chair: Mary Ann Mahony, Ph.D. *Central Connecticut State University*

- **Performing a Playful Politics of Reproductive Freedom in Mexico**
  Erin L. McCutcheon, Ph.D., *University of Rhode Island*
- **The Right to a Safe Birth: The Correlation Between Obstetric Violence, Reproductive Justice, and Legal Reform in Brazil**
  Quenessa Hill, *College of the Holy Cross*
  Clarissa Carvalho, Ph.D., *College of the Holy Cross*
- **Beyond Borders- Raíces y Corazones: Building Healthy Community In Times of Division**
  MaryJoan Picone, LCSW, *Emmaus Migrant Advocacy Project*
  Sara Rodonis ‘24, *Wellesley College*
- **Rituals of Homosociability and Homoeroticism in Mexico City’s Drinking Cultures**
  Ryan Jones, Ph.D., *SUNY Geneseo*

Panel 4.5: Environment, Sustainability, and Development Research at WPI Project Centers
Room: Pendleton 339
Chair: Grant Burrier, Ph.D., *Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

- **Empowering Youth Through Climate Workshops in Costa Rica**
  Alyssa Blatnik, Marco Cerritos, Meleana Hooper
- **Co-Developing A Student-Led Agroecological Product Line in Rural Puerto Rico**
  Olivia Colby, Timothy Galica, Collin Shuff
- **Drone Piloting Development Through Pedagogical Approach**
  Liv Cavanagh, Ryan Dieterle, Mykyla Gallion, Matthew Laudares
- **Expanding Biodiversity Accessibility & Engagement in Ecuador**
  Meyer Jacobson, Emma Maertz, Anna Sychevsky

3:30-3:45 PM: Coffee Break & Poster Sessions
Pendleton Atrium

Poster 1: Mobility and Unequal Adaptation: Lessons on Transport Affordability from the COVID-19 Pandemic in Cusco, Peru
Tishman Commons

- Davis Chacon-Hurtado, Ph.D., *University of Connecticut*
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Pendleton Atrium

- Sam Arevalo-Hoefer, *University of Connecticut*

Session 5: 3:45-5:15 PM

Roundtable 5.1: The Family Van: Community-centered approach to healthcare in Boston
Room: Pendleton 127
Chair: Koichi Hagimoto, Ph.D., *Wellesley College*

- Simone de Oliveira, *The Family Van*
- Michelle Jimenez, *The Family Van*
- Dolores Cavers ’26, *Wellesley College*
- Isabella Peña ‘25, *Wellesley College*

Panel 5.2: Teaching With Sources from our Research
Room: Pendleton 129
Chair: Erin E. O'Connor Ph.D., *Bridgewater State University*

- **Afro-Andean Life in Cuzco, 1500s & 1600s**
  Leo J. Garofalo, Ph.D., *Connecticut College*
- **Spatial History & Nation-Making, 1800s in Chile and Argentina**
  María de los Ángeles Picone, Ph.D., *Boston College*
- **Photographs of Chinese and Other Workers, Peru, 1800s**
  Flor Isabel Palomino Arana, Ph.D., *Independent Researcher*

Panel 5.3: The Relevance of Gustavo Gutiérrez's Thought for Latin American Studies: Art, Philosophical Anthropology, and Decoloniality
Room: Pendleton 139
Chair: Paola Uparela, Ph.D., *Harvard University*

- **Modernity and decoloniality in the work of Gustavo Gutiérrez y Aníbal Quijano**
  Raúl Zegarra, Ph.D., *Harvard University*
- **Gutierrez' theological and philosophical anthropology in his Las Casas: In Search of the Poor of Jesus Christ**
  David Thomas Orique, Ph.D., *Providence College*
- **Bartolomé de las Casas and his Description of War Trauma**
  Rady Roldán-Figueroa, Ph.D., *Boston University*
- **"Trabajo sobre trabajo" and the Preferential Option for the (Feminine) Poor: Women's Labor Rights and the Gutiérrez Legacy to Colonial Studies**
  Paola Uparela, Ph.D., *Harvard University*

Panel 5.4: Infrastructure, Indigeneity, and Identity Research at WPI Project Centers
Chair: John Galante, Ph.D., *Worcester Polytechnic Institute*
Room: Pendleton 327

- **Creation and Analysis of New Water Distribution and Filtration System in Rural Ecuador**
  Abigail Converse, Rex Hoskinson, Charlie Rose, Sarah Spinner, Brynn McElligott, Gemma Baldwin
- **Developing A Platform for Indigenous Cultures and Tourism**
  Xavier Horta, Matthew Chigos, Tyler Garofalo, Justin Ostrom, Aislinn Funkhouser
- **Documenting the Sustainable Systems at the Nina Wasi Refuge**
  Zoe Bennett, Alanna Courtier, Randy Miller
- **Structural Solutions for Educational Renewal in Panama**
  Maxwell LaRose, Nolan Schlessman, Sebastian Minio

Panel 5.5: Order, Progress, and Resistance
Room: Pendleton 339
Chair: Aviva Chomsky, Ph.D., *Salem State University*

- **White Honor, Indian Disgrace: Legal and Communal Treatment of Infanticidal Indigenous Women in Postcolonial Liberal Mexico**
  Tommie Worrall, *Boston College*
- **The United States and Violence in Colombia, WWII to the Present**
  Aviva Chomsky, Ph.D., *Salem State University*

- **If the Birds Stop Singing: Peace Nature, and Power in Northern Colombia**
  Emma Banks, Ph.D., *Bucknell University*
- **US Empire, Food, and Latin America**
  Steve Striffler, Ph.D., *UMass Boston*

Panel 5.6: Crossing Epistemic Boundaries as an Act of Resistance: Decolonial Arts and Pedagogies from the Global South
Room: Pendleton 239
Chair: Maria Alessandra Woolson, Ph.D., *University of Vermont*

- **MACHADO: A Decolonial History of Mazatlán**
  Estela González, Ph.D., *Middlebury College*
- **A Pluriverse for the Anthropocene. Sustainability Pedagogy and the Politics of Life**
  Maria Alessandra Woolson, Ph.D., *University of Vermont*
- **Cruzando fronteras epistemológicas. Cómo la mirada femenina hace uso de la oralidad para desafiar el archivo hegemónico**
  Vania Duffaut Lopez, *University of Vermont*
- **Mirá Socioambiental: Ecofeminismo, Territorio y Resistencia en Argentina**
  Moisés Rodríguez, *University of Vermont*

Session 6: 5:15-6:45 PM

Panel 6.1: Histories, Legacies and Dialogues in the Cinema of the Southern Cone
Room: Pendleton 127
Chair: Ignacio Lopez-Vicuna, Ph.D. *University of Vermont*

- **Storing Hope and Spreading Hope in Patricio Guzmán's 'Mi país imaginario'**
  Audrey Hansen, Ph.D., *Independent Scholar*
- **Father Daughter Legacies in Southern Cone Artistic Production**
  Lori Hopkins, Ph.D., *University of New Hampshire.*
- **Raúl Ruiz and World Literature: Literary-Cinematic Dialogues of the Global South**
  Ignacio López-Vicuña, Ph.D., *University of Vermont*

Panel 6.2: Populist Rhetoric and Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching Brazilian Culture in US Universities
Room: Pendleton 129
Chair: Timothy Murphy, Ph.D., *Worcester State University*

- **Bridging the Classroom and Community: Teaching Brazilian Immigration in Massachusetts**
  Clarissa Carvalho, Ph.D., *College of the Holy Cross*

- **Brazil Uncovered: Reimagining Brazil Through Cultural Inquiry**
  Andy L. Barrientos-Gómez, Ph.D., *College of the Holy Cross*
- **Learning Cultural Sensitivity Through Afro-Brazilian Music & Religion: Limits and Possibilities**
  Schuyler Whelden, Ph.D., *College of the Holy Cross*
- **Populist Rhetoric and Mobilization Strategies in Brazil: A Comparative Discourse Analysis**
  Grant Burrier, Ph.D., *Worcester Polytechnic Institute*

Panel 6.3: Families, Migration and Asylum: Identities in Movements
Room: Pendleton 327
Chair: Erik Bernardino, Ph.D., *Bates College*

- **La Violencia: Family Stories of Labor, War, and Migration**
  Gabriela Merida, *University of Albany*
- **Beyond Permanent Departure: Migration, Return, and the Weaving of Translocal Identities in the Post-ELA Classroom**
  Victor A. Cruz, *Binghamton University*
- **Collaborative Research to Support Asylum Cases and Immigrant Rights: Professors, Students, and Librarians**
  Jennifer Schaefer, Ph.D., *University of Connecticut*

Panel 6.4: Dystopian Encounters on the Frontier
Room: Pendleton 339
Chair: William Stark, Ph.D., *University of Rhode Island*

- **Artificial Savages and Transcultural Resistance: Performance Art at the U.S.-México Border**
  William Stark, Ph.D., *University of Rhode Island*
- **Global Debris and Social Decomposition in Contemporary Mexican Science Fiction**
  Raúl Rodríguez-Hernández, Ph.D., *University of Rochester*
- **Latin American Science Fiction in the 21st Century: Will Paradise be for Everyone?**
  Claudia Schaefer, Ph.D., *University of Rochester*

7:00-9:00 PM: Closing Reception
Lulu, Tishman Commons

Prizes

Marysa Navarro Best Book Prize

Fernando Armstrong-Fumero

Armstrong-Fumero, Fernando. *Roads to Prosperity and Ruin: Infrastructure and the Making of Neoliberal Yucatán.* University of North Carolina Press, 2025.

Fernando Armstrong-Fumero's *Roads to Prosperity and Ruin: Infrastructure and the Making of Neoliberal Yucatán* is an interdisciplinary study of transportation-building, nation-building, and community-building in the Yucatán from the 1930s to the present. By blending history and ethnography, Armstrong-Fumero centers rural Yucatecans who stand to gain from infrastructure and tourism while simultaneously bearing the brunt of decades' worth of unfulfilled government commitments to non-tourist sectors and, eventually, of neoliberal development. Armstrong-Fumero offers a compelling ground-up analysis of neoliberalism as a discursive experience in which everyday actors situate their communities within national politics and articulate their individual material opportunities and constraints. The book illustrates how Yucatecans have long facilitated and contested the politics of infrastructure development, ultimately contributing to today's predicament, seen most starkly with the Tren Maya, in which neoliberal tourist development is both an auspicious prospect and an ensnaring limitation.

Joseph T. Criscenti Best Article Prize

Erin L. McCutcheon

Erin L. McCutcheon (2025) Polvo de Gallina Negra and the Visual Politics of Pregnant Performance in Mexico,"*Art Journal,* 84:3, 82-103

Erin L. McCutcheon's article "Polvo de Gallina Negra and the Visual Politics of Pregnant Performance in Mexico," published in *Art Journal* explores the relationship between art, feminism, visual culture, and the politics of motherhood in a patriarchal society, in this case Mexico, through the work of Maris Bustamante and Mónica Mayer, the founders of the feminist art collective, Polvo de Gallina Negra in 1983. It "examines the ways in which Polvo de Gallina Negra introduced the pregnant body as a new object of feminist and artistic communication in the struggle to achieve reproductive freedom" and shows its relation to the feminist movement of the 1970s in Mexico. The article "combines

traditional archival research with analysis of the archives of lived experience, positioning artists and activists as ‘primary sources’ whose memories are a vital record of these pasts.”

Paola Uparela

Paola Uparela Gender, Transgender, and Queer Inbetweeness in the Relación IN *Approaches to Teaching Cabeza de Vaca’s Account and Other Texts*. Luis Fernando Restrebo and Carlos A. Jáuregui, eds. New York: NY: Modern Language Association, 2025.

Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca’s *Relación* is one of the most widely taught texts on colonial Latin American history and culture and widely understood as hypermasculine. Paola Uparela's contribution to the MLA’s new text on queering the Relación and how to teach it is therefore important and sure to have a significant impact on the field. The article discusses Cabeza de Vaca’s references to the “cross-dressing figure referred to as Mala Cosa [and] the transgenderism, and alternative sexual practices attributed to the indigenous men who do women’s work” and how to evaluate the prediction of the expedition’s failure by the Moorish woman, while also indicating how to approach these aspects of the text with students. Based on the translation by scholars Rolena Adorno and Patrick Charles Pautz, the text includes charts pointing out the elements of the text in which the elements in question appear. The article will provide an alternative reading to this important text, challenge stereotypes about gender identity in colonial Latin America and provide an alternative assignment to Catalina de Erauso’s *Lieutenant Nun.*

Best Dissertation Prize

Polly Lauer

Struggling for Air: The Politics of Resilience in a Maya K’iche’ Radio Station, 1959-2020
Polly Wellington Lauer
Yale University
2025

This outstanding dissertation provides a groundbreaking, deeply empathetic examination of Maya K’iche’ community broadcasting at *La Voz de Nahualá/Nawal Estéreo* in Guatemala. Analyzing over six decades of resilience—from state-sponsored genocide to contemporary migration—the author brilliantly frames radio transmission as a dynamic continuation of Indigenous oral traditions.

Distinguished by extraordinary methodological rigor and sophistication, the study seamlessly synthesizes oral histories conducted in K'iche', participatory ethnography, declassified FOIA records, and archival research spanning three countries. Operating at the vibrant intersection of sound studies, Indigenous studies, media history, and translation, this exquisitely written and highly original project captures how Maya media makers have courageously navigated life-and-death perils to amplify marginalized voices and drive local transformation.

D. Scott Palmer Best Edited Book Prize (every two years)

Adam Warren, Julia E. Rodriguez, and Stephen T. Casper

***Empire, Colonialism, and the Human Sciences: Troubling Encounters in the Americas and Pacific*, edited by Adam Warren, Julia E. Rodriguez, and Stephen T. Casper, Cambridge University Press, 2024.**

Empire, Colonialism, and the Human Sciences: Troubling Encounters in the Americas and Pacific, edited by Adam Warren, Julia E. Rodriguez and Stephen T. Casper, is an incisive and illuminating volume that calls for the decolonization of the recent history of human sciences, with a focus on analyses of "civilizing projects" in Latin America and the Pacific. Its nine chapters cover a range of case studies, from exploitative research on Indigenous bodies during late settler expansion in Argentina, to racialized studies perpetrated in Peru by a Yale University expedition, to the forceful removal of Aché children in Paraguay, to a controversy regarding the remains of Cuauhtémoc in post-revolutionary Mexico. A series of brief final reflections emphasize the importance of perspectives from Indigenous Studies and reparative decolonial approaches. In the end, this work greatly advances our knowledge about the lasting consequences of troublesome interventions by social scientists in a diversity of postcolonial situations.

Honorable Mention

Mackenzie Cooley and Huiyi Wu

Cooley, Mackenzie, and Huiyi Wu, editors, *Knowing an Empire: Early Modern Chinese and Spanish Worlds in Dialogue*, Lever Press, 2025.

Knowing an Empire: Early Modern Chinese and Spanish Worlds in Dialogue, edited by Mackenzie Cooley and WU Huiyi, is a pathbreaking collection of essays that juxtaposes and compares epistemologies and technologies of power and control in two geographically and culturally distinct empires – imperial China and the Spanish empire. Essays draw upon the "kindred managerial toolkits and territorial data corpuses" compiled by these empires: the local gazettes of late Imperial China, and the *relaciones*

geográficas of the Spanish empire. The volume asks provocative questions about knowledge production under imperial auspices -- what knowledge is collected, how, by whom, and to what purpose. *Knowing An Empire* makes a unique contribution to Latin American studies by putting it into dialogue with East Asian studies. It thus creates a bridge between what are seemingly disconnected disciplines and is not only interdisciplinary but also transdisciplinary

Best Translation
(every two years)

Matthew Restall, Amara Solari, John F. Chuchiak IV, and Traci Ardren

Restall, Matthew, Amara Solari, John F. Chuchiak IV, Tracy Arden, *The Friar and the Maya. Diego de Landa and the Account of the Things of Yucatán,* Denver: University Press of Colorado, 2023.

The Friar and the Maya embodies the transformative possibilities of translation as a collaborative scholarly and pedagogical endeavor and fully merits the 2026 NECLAS Award for Best Translation. Produced over a decade of sustained engagement with the source text and archival materials, the book offers a contemporary, meticulous, and remarkably readable English rendering of the *Relación de las Cosas de Yucatán*. The translators' careful attention to style, terminology, and linguistic nuance not only corrects shortcomings in earlier versions and editions but also foregrounds Maya and Nahuatl terms that are essential to understanding the text on its own cultural and historical terms. By preserving the multiple language layers of Landa's document, this translation enables readers to engage more fully with the complexities of the original work and its intellectual world.

The translation is especially impressive for the delicate balance it achieves between accessibility and scholarly rigor. A lucid and nuanced introduction, seven substantial interpretive essays, and extensive annotations make significant contributions to the historiography of Spanish colonialism, Maya society, the text's transmission and reception, and the development of modern Maya studies. At the same time, the translators have rendered this complex work accessible to both specialists and general readers. The result is a volume that serves not only as an authoritative primary source but also as an exceptional pedagogical resource, inviting readers to engage critically with historical documents and the processes through which they are produced, preserved, and interpreted.

Honorable Mention

Ashwin Ravikumar and Paul Schroeder Rodríguez

Massol González, Alexis, *Casa Pueblo: A Puerto Rican Model of Self-Governance,* translated by Ashwin Ravikumar and Paul Schroeder Rodríguez, Ann Arbor: Lever Press, 2022.

Casa Pueblo opens a window onto four decades of environmental activism, community self-determination, and grassroots institution-building in Puerto Rico. Thanks to this collaborative translation, English-language readers now have access to a groundbreaking community-based model of self-governance and sustainable development. The project is especially compelling as both a pedagogical and a collective endeavor. Undertaken in the spirit of *Casa Pueblo* itself, it transformed students and faculty into activist translators, extending the reach of a powerful vision of community empowerment and resilience.

One of the translation's most significant achievements is its demonstration that translation is not merely a vehicle for interlingual communication or the transfer of information. Rather, it emerges here as a political and ethical practice of community engagement, education, and knowledge production. By embodying the activist ethos that animates its source text and by offering an inspiring model of translation as collective action, *Casa Pueblo* makes an outstanding contribution to translation studies and public scholarship. For these reasons, it richly deserves an Honorable Mention.

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