

**American Literature Association
Symposium**

The Latina/o Literary Landscape

**A Symposium Supported by the American Literature Association
and the Latina/o Literature and Culture Society**

March 6-8, 2014

Keynote Speakers:

Norma E. Cantú, University of Missouri

**Michael Nava, Author of The Henry Rios Mystery Novels and the
forthcoming novel, *The City of Palaces***

Location: The Sheraton Gunter Hotel

205 East Houston Street

San Antonio, Texas

Conference Director: Cristina Herrera, California State University, Fresno

Acknowledgments: The conference director would like to thank Alfred Bendixen, ALA Executive Director, Larissa Mercado-López, Marci McMahon, Eliza Rodríguez y Gibson, Norma E. Cantú, Michael Nava, and Dean Luz Gonzalez from California State University, Fresno for their generosity and gracious help in making this symposium an exciting event. Thank you also to symposium moderators and presenters for their work.

Thursday March 6, 2014

Evening reception and reading with author Michael Nava

And Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs

Complimentary drinks

and hor d'oeuvres

TC Baker room – third floor

**Registration for conference and opportunity to pick up badges and
programs**

8:30-10:00 pm

Friday, March 7, 2014

Registration and Morning Coffee 8:00 am -8:45 am

Alamo Foyer

Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:45 am

Alamo Room

Session 1

9:00 am-10:20 am

**1-A Contesting the Boundaries of Literature: A Panel by Contributors to the Forthcoming
Anthology *Word Images: A Norma Elia Cantú Critical Reader***

Alamo Room

Moderator: Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs, Seattle University

1. Michael Cucher, University of Texas, Austin
2. Rose Rodríguez-Rabin, University of Texas, San Antonio
3. Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs, Seattle University

**1-B Contesting Terrain: Cartographies of Coloniality and Resistance in Latina/o Literature
Frontier Room**

Moderator: Cristina Herrera, California State University, Fresno

1. "Liminal Spaces, Liminal Identities: Mexico-United States Border Narratives as Travel Writing," Amber James, Oklahoma State University
2. "Twenty-First Century Literary Border Formations: Neoliberalism and Domingo Martínez's *The Boy Kings of Texas*," Magda García, University of California, Santa Barbara
3. "No-Place Spaces: Contemporary Mappings of Place and Space in Latina Literature," Roberta Hurtado, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts

Session 2
10:30 am-11:50 am

2-A Mapping Diaspora: Regional Studies in Latina/o Literature and Culture

Alamo Room

Moderator: Eliza Rodríguez y Gibson, Loyola Marymount University

1. "The Regional South and Comparative Race Dialogue in Gayl Jones's *Mosquito* and Sandra Cisneros's *Caramelo*," Mary Delgado García, University of California, Santa Barbara
2. "Mexicana/os Enacting Literacy through Theater in the San Antonio Plazas, 1930s-1950s," Marci McMahon, University of Texas Pan American
3. "Engaging Ritual in Chicana Fiction: Castillo and Cisneros," Helane Adams Androne, Miami University of Ohio

2-B The Troubled Borders of Identity and History

Frontier Room

Moderator: Alfred Bendixen, Texas A & M University

1. "Borderlands Theory in Himilce Novas' *Mangos, Bananas, and Coconuts: A Cuban Love Story*," Susan C. Méndez, The University of Scranton
2. "Harriet Beecher Stowe's Cuban Characters: *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda," Judie Newman, University of Nottingham
3. "What We Don't Know about the Mexican Revolution," Marco Portales, Texas A&M University

2-C Telling to Live: Narratives of Healing, Compassion, and Feminist Agency in Latina/o Literature

Quadrangle Room

Moderator: Rene H. Treviño, Texas A & M University

1. "Radical Storytelling in Chicana Survival Narratives," Adrianna Michelle Santos, University of California, Santa Barbara
2. "Creating a More Compassionate Narrative: Undoing Desconocimiento through Embodied Intimacy in Helena María Viramontes' *Under the Feet of Jesus* and Luis Alberto Urrea's *The Devil's Highway*," Christina Garcia Lopez, University of San Francisco

Lunch 12:00 pm-1:10 pm
Robert Johnson room (first Floor)

Session 3
1:20 pm-2:40 pm

3-A Genres of Resistance: Testimonio, Mythology, and Genre-mixing in Chicana Literature
Alamo Room

Moderator: Larissa M. Mercado-López, California State University, Fresno

1. “Metaphors of Miscegenation: Genre Mixing in Gloria Anzaldúa’s *Borderlands/La Frontera*,” Shelley García, Biola University
2. “Truth and Genre in the Borderlands: Ana Castillo’s *The Guardians*,” Crystal M. Kurzen, Washington College
3. “Wailing, Keening, and Motherhood on the Border: Gloria Anzaldúa’s *La Llorona* and Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin’s *Cailleach*,” Cailin Copan-Kelly, University of Texas, San Antonio

3-B Subverting the Literary Landscape: Teaching Contemporary Latina/o Literature
Frontier Room

Moderator: Jasmine Mulliken, Oklahoma State University

1. “Fukú or Zafa? Teaching the Raw Language of Junot Díaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*,” Dr. Kurt Hochenauer, University of Central Oklahoma
2. “Diverse-ity: Adversity, Community, and Hilarity in Ana Menendez’s *In Cuba I was a German Shepherd*,” Shay Rahm, University of Central Oklahoma
3. ““Meet the New Mutants of American Fiction”: Manuel Gonzales and the Adaptation of Literary Environments,” Timothy Petete, University of Central Oklahoma

3-C Reading Chicana/o Literature in the Dark: From Gothic Aesthetics to Chicana Detectives
Quadrangle Room

Moderator: Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

1. “Under the Feet of Hitchcock: Manuel Muñoz’s Chicana/o Gothic Mode,” Tanya González, Kansas State University
2. “Queering the Uncanny: Latino/a Authors Disidentify with Normative *Familia* Structures through the Gothic Aesthetic,” Stephanie Schoellman, University of Texas, San Antonio
3. “Encountering the Non-Human and Constructing Female Independence in Yda Addis’s ‘A Human Tigress,’” Rene H. Treviño, Texas A & M University

Session 4

2:50 pm-4:10 pm

4-A Perceiving the United States of America: The Migrant Vision and Dream

Frontier Room

Moderator: Juan Alonzo, Texas A&M University

1. “Cambio de perspectiva en *Streets de Miami* de Pedro Medina,” Naida Saavedra, Florida State University
2. “Latin/o American Perspectives of the United States in *Sam no es mi tío*,” Amrita Das, University of North Carolina Wilmington
3. “*Trópico en Manhattan, novella* by Guillermo Cotto-Thorner: The Protestant Work Ethic in the Novel of Immigration,” Norma A. Mouton, Independent Scholar

4-B Transnational Novels and Chicana/Mexicana/Centroamericana Politics of Solidarity

Quadrangle Room

Moderator: Larissa M. Mercado-López, California State University, Fresno

1. “Revolutionary Feelings and Forms: The Chicana Hybrid Novel and Affective Technologies of Central American and Chicana Solidarity in Demetria Martinez’s *Mother Tongue*,” Georgina Guzmán, California State University, Channel Islands
2. “‘*Chicanas con causa*’: Deconstructing Colonial Legacies in Detective Mystery and Crime Narratives,” Sandra Ruiz, University of California, Los Angeles
3. “Crossing Borders Through Prostitution: *Across a Hundred Mountains* by Reyna Grande,” Carolyn Gonzalez, University of California, Los Angeles

Keynote by Norma E. Cantú

Alamo room

4:15 pm -5:00 pm

Reception

Robert Johnson room (first Floor)

5:00-7:00 pm

Saturday, March 8, 2014

Morning coffee and registration 8:30-9:00 am

Alamo Foyer

Session 5

9:00 am-10:20 am

**5-A Borderlands, Goddesses, and Tamales: Conflicts in Latina Literature
Frontier Room**

Moderator: Cristina Herrera, California State University, Fresno

1. "Gloria Anzaldúa Disrupted: The Dismissal of the Positivist Possibilities in Latina Literature," Maria C. Gonzalez, University of Houston
2. "'El mar does not stop at borders': Queering the Literary Waters of Yemayá and Ochún," Sarah Becker, University of Houston

**5-B Critical Conversations on Queer Latina/o Literature: A Dialogue with Authors
Virginia Grise and Pablo Miguel Martinez
Quadrangle Room**

Moderator: T. Jackie Cuevas, University of Texas, San Antonio

1. Virginia Grise, author of *blu*
2. Pablo Miguel Martínez, author of *Brazos, Carry Me*
3. T. Jackie Cuevas, University of Texas, San Antonio

Session 6

10:30 am-11:50 am

6-A Feminism, Labor, and Identity in Latina Literature Frontier Room

Moderator: Eliza Rodríguez y Gibson, Loyola Marymount University

1. "I am (Not) a Latina Feminist: (Dis)Avowing Latina/Feminism: Analyzing Representations of Latinidad and Feminism in and about Alisa Valdes's *The Feminist and the Cowboy*," Erin Hurt, West Chester University
2. "More than Just a Waitress: The Waitress as Artist and Activist in Contemporary Chicana Literature," Cristina Herrera, California State University, Fresno
3. "Laboring Histories: The 'Reconciliation' of Maternity in the Poetry of Laurie Ann Guerrero," Larissa M. Mercado-López, California State University, Fresno

6-B (Re)defining Chicanism@ in Chicana/o Literary and Cultural Production Quadrangle Room

Moderator: Marci McMahon, University of Texas, Pan American

1. "The Chican@ Nueva Onda is a Poetic Tidal Wave: The Revitalization, Repoliticization, and Redefinition of Chican@ through Poetry," Christopher Carmona, University of Texas at Brownsville
2. "Chicana Lesbians on Stage: then, now *y después*," Trevor Boffone, University of Houston

Lunch 12:00-1:10 pm

Robert Johnson room (first Floor)

Session 7
1:20 pm-2:40 pm

7-A Blurring the Lines: Revising and Reimagining History in the Latina/o Literary Landscape
Frontier Room

Moderator: Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

1. "Teaching the People without History: Autobiographical Historiography in Junot Diaz, Francisco Goldman, and Salvador Plascencia," Carlos Martinez, Framingham State University
2. "'Another wild Indian gone amok': Publishing Oscar Zeta Acosta," Allison Fagan, James Madison University
3. "Transgressive Dualities: Ana Cubillas as Double Agent in Esmeralda Santiago's *Conquistadora*," Lisa Roy-Davis, Collin College

7-B Queering the Latina/o Literary Imaginary
Quadrangle Room

Moderator: Tanya González, Kansas State University

1. "Embodied Textuality/Textualized Bodies: Queer Latina/o Subjectivity and Poetic Form," Eliza Rodríguez y Gibson, Loyola Marymount University
2. "Oedipal Wrecks: Justin Torres's *We The Animals*," Richard T. Rodríguez, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
3. "Whose Aztlán? HIV/AIDS and Gil Cuadros's Decolonial Imaginary," Julie Avril Minich, University of Texas at Austin
4. "Towards a Mariposa Consciousness: Reimagining Queer Chicano and Latino Identities," Daniel Enrique Pérez, University of Nevada, Reno

Session 8
2:50 pm-3:50 pm

8-A Theorizing Masculinities in Latina/o Literature and Art
Frontier Room

Moderator: Magda García, University of California, Santa Barbara

1. "Public Work, Private Acts: The Politics of Brown Hetero-Masculine Intimacy in Junot Diaz's *This is How You Lose Her* and Das Racist's *Shut Up, Dude and Sit Down, Man* Mixtapes," Roberto Macias, Jr., Independent Scholar
2. "The Landscape of Sport in Latina/o Literature and Art: Reading Masculinity and Finding Femininity," Jennifer Avila, University of California, Riverside

**8-B Transnational Dialogues: Writing Across Borders of Nation and Citizenship
Quadrangle Room**

Moderator: Amrita Das, University of North Carolina Wilmington

1. “The Character of the Exile in U.S. Latino/a Literature from the Spanish Caribbean,” José Jiménez-Justiniano, University of Texas, Dallas
2. “The Transpacific Landscape of Ethnic Nationalism in Chicana/o Literature,” Jayson Gonzales Sae-Saue, Southern Methodist University

**Session 9
4:00 pm-5:00 pm**

**9-A A Roundtable on Chicana Feminists in Academia: A Conversation Across the Ranks
Alamo Room**

1. Sonia Saldívar-Hull, University of Texas, San Antonio
2. Norma E. Cantú, University of Missouri, Kansas City
3. Eliza Rodríguez y Gibson, Loyola Marymount University
4. Cristina Herrera, California State University, Fresno
5. Georgina Guzmán, California State University, Channel Islands
6. Sonia Valencia, University of Texas, San Antonio

Keynote by Michael Nava

5:10 pm-6:00 pm

Alamo Room

Reception in Robert Johnson room (first Floor)

6:00-7:30 pm