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 Elía 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

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
3. “Wailing, Keening, and Motherhood on the Border: Gloria Anzaldúa’s *La Llorona* and Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin’s *Cailleach,***” Cailín 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 Menéndez’s *In Cuba I was a German Shepherd,*” Shay Rahm, University of Central Oklahoma
3. “‘Meet the New Mutants of American Fiction’: Manuel González 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

2. “Queering the Uncanny: Latino/a Authors Disidentify with Normative *Familia* Structures through the Gothic Aesthetic,” Stephanie Schoellman, University of Texas, San Antonio
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

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

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

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

2. “‘Another wild Indian gone amok’: Publishing Oscar Zeta Acosta,” Allison Fagan, James Madison University

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

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
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

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