

Call for Papers
The Latina/o/x Literature & Culture Society
of the American Literature Association
32nd Annual Conference: July 7-11, 2021
Westin Copley Place, Boston, MA
Deadline: February 10, 2020

This year the Latina/o/x Literature & Culture Society welcomes submissions focusing on diverse topics including literary genre, single authors, children's literature, speculative fiction, comparative analyses, as well as cultural studies approaches. We also encourage a variety of theoretical and interdisciplinary prisms as well as a variety of panel types, including traditional paper sessions, roundtable discussions, and sessions dedicated to the teaching of Latina/o/x literature. Given the location of the Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, we solicit proposals centering Latina/o/x experiences in New England and the Northeastern U.S. more broadly. In the spirit of community building, the Latina/o/x Literature and Culture Society attempts to build sessions that bring together participants at various stages of their careers.

While topics for individual papers proposed sessions are open, this year--especially given the other-worldly year of 2020--we welcome submissions investigating the emerging, though rapidly growing genre, of the Latina/o/x speculative genre. Topics may include but are not limited to the following:

- Apocalyptic and postapocalyptic
- Apocalyptic themes: zombies, pandemic, environmental crisis, robot/cybernetic revolt, technological singularity, alien invasion, impact event,
- Science Fiction
- Dystopian or utopian fiction
- Fantasy
- Speculative YA
- Gothic and gothic horror genres
- Queerness and the speculative
- Figure of the alien
- Monstrosity and monsters
- Ghostly matters
- Genealogy or Latina/o/x gothic literary prototypes
- Race, terror, and horror
- Body horror
- Terror, horror, and racialized subjectivity

- Gothic epistemology and ontology

Please submit proposals for individual papers as well as full panel and roundtable sessions.

- For **individual papers**, send a short abstract (150 words) with title, along with institutional affiliation, academic title, and contact information.
- For **panel proposals**, send paper titles, short abstracts for each paper (150 words), along with institutional affiliation, academic title, and contact information for each panelist and the panel chair.
- If you prefer to present virtually, please indicate this in your abstract or panel proposal.

Virtual Options

For more information, please visit:

<http://americanliteratureassociation.org/ala-conferences/digital-options-for-the-2021-conference/>

*The American Literature Association recognizes the challenges and continuing uncertainty facing all scholars during the Covid epidemic. We hope that the distribution of vaccines will enable us to return to Boston in July 2021 for our annual conference and that we can have a safe and productive meeting, but we are aware that some individuals will be unable to travel. In response to this situation, the ALA will offer **two virtual options** for this annual conference:*

1. Member Societies may pre-record their sessions, and the ALA will post a link to these sessions as part of our program. Participants in these official sessions will pay a reduced conference fee of \$125.

2. Society panels and accepted panels may include a digital presentation (via Skype or Facetime or Zoom) by one of the panelists. The organizer of the panel will need to request a/v support in advance. The chair of the panel must provide a laptop and will oversee the digital portion of the panel. While the ALA will arrange for the conference hotel to provide a hard-wired internet connection, we cannot provide a technician to run the session. Please note that the a/v costs will be considerable; therefore, all participants in these sessions will need to pay the regular conference fee. Also, while we recognize the need for flexibility, our hope is that panels will have no more than one virtual presenter.

Please submit proposals and inquiries to Co-Chairs Drs. Cristina Herrera and Cathryn Merla-Watson: cherrera@mail.fresnostate.edu and cathryn.merlawatson@utrgv.edu

For information about the Latina/o/x Literature and Culture Society, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/164409943705319/> For more information about the ALA and the conference, including registration information, please visit <http://americanliteratureassociation.org>