September 2016

Dear Fellow Latin Americanists,

We are excited to report that preparations for this year’s North Central Council of Latin Americanists’ (NCCLA) Conference are progressing well. The conference, titled Ties that Bind: Latin American Studies in a Global World will be held November 4-5 2016 at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Independent scholars, faculty, and students (both undergraduate and graduate) from over thirty colleges, universities, and other educational programs will contribute to a variety of interesting panels spanning multiple disciplines. Panel topics include migration, immigration, ethnic identity, Cuban history and literature, the Brazilian political crisis, and teaching about Latin America. Presentations and screenings will last 15-20 minutes in each panel, leaving enough time for a question-and-answer section at the end of each panel.

We invite you to join us from the first session at 8:30 am on Friday morning through the final session on Saturday, which ends at 1:30 pm, respectively, for provocative papers, stimulating dialogue, and camaraderie. Conference participants who arrive in La Crosse on November 3 are welcome to join the NCCLA Executive Committee for an informal gathering at Manny’s Restaurant (301 Hampton Ct. Onalaska WI)—see conference program for details. After the conference on Saturday, you might want to join the NCCLA Teaching and Learning workshop, which will take place from 2 pm to 4 pm. A description of the workshop, “The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly: Teaching about the Relationship between the US and Latin America” is included in the registration packet.
We are especially excited about our **keynote speaker, Brendan Jamal Thornton**. Dr. Thornton’s talk on Pentecostal conversion and its links to youth gangs in urban Latin America will take place Friday November 4 at 7:00 pm. We hope that you’ll venture to downtown La Crosse on Friday night to see and dance with De La Buena, an Afro-Caribbean jazz band.

A draft of the conference program appears on the NCCLA website. Please contact Program Chair, Pedro dos Santos at nccla2016@luther.edu by October 28 to make any changes before the final schedule is posted.

Remember to complete the registration form on the website and send it to Julie Kline at the NCCLA Secretariat (UW-Milwaukee) to confirm your plans. All participants are required to register. We have rooms blocked off at the Radisson (200 Harborview Plaza) and the Holiday Inn (200 Pearl Street) in downtown La Crosse. Code: NCCLA.

Please don’t forget the deadlines for applying for **student travel grants** (September 30) and for **teaching and research awards** (October 9). Submit applications to the Program Chair, Pedro dos Santos at nccla2016@luther.edu. For more information go to [http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/nccla/awards.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/clacs/nccla/awards.cfm).

Looking forward to our gathering in La Crosse,

*Pedro G. dos Santos*

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