August 16, 2018

Dear Fellow Latin Americanists,

We are looking forward to your participation and presence at this year’s annual meeting of the North Central Council of Latin Americanists (NCCLA) hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The conference, entitled, “The Role of Latin American Studies in Breaking Barriers and Bridging Divides,” will be held October 11-13, 2018. Independent scholars, and faculty and students from approximately thirty colleges, universities, and other educational programs will contribute to a variety of interesting panels spanning multiple disciplines. Panel topics include a wide variety of relevant topics from around the region, such as migration, racial and ethnic identities, politics, literature, social movement activism, linguistics, culture change, community development, the environment, and teaching about Latin America. To make sure that we leave enough time for a question-and-answer section at the end of each panel, presenters are allowed to present for 15 minutes, so keep this in mind while preparing for your panel.

We invite you to join us from the first session at 8:30 am on Friday morning through the final session on Saturday, for provocative papers, stimulating dialogue, and camaraderie. Conference participants who arrive in Eau Claire on Thursday, October 11 are welcome to join the NCCLA Executive Committee for an informal gathering at The Informalist, the restaurant in the Lismore Hotel (see conference program for details). On Friday, a plenary session is scheduled right after lunch that will discuss the results of our spring 2018 teaching and learning workshop about developing and maintaining Latin American Studies programs. After the conference, you might want to join this fall’s teaching and learning workshop, which will take place on Saturday from
1-3pm. A description of the workshop, “Using Films and Documentaries to Teach Latin America,” is included in the registration packet.

We are especially excited about our keynote speaker, Macarena Gómez-Barris, Chairperson of the Department of Social Science and Cultural Studies at the Pratt Institute in New York City.

Dr. Gómez-Barris’ talk, addressing art and political imaginaries from across the Americas to argue for the importance of political undercurrents and submerged perspectives, will take place Friday, October 12, from 7:15-9pm.

A draft of the conference program appears on the NCCLA website. Please contact Program Chair, Christine Hippert at chippert@uw lax.edu by October 1 to make any changes before the final schedule is posted.

Remember to complete the registration form on the website (https://uwm.edu/clacs/public-engagement/nccla/nccla-conferences/) and send it to host institution conference organizer Manuel Fernández to confirm your plans: fernanm@uwec.edu. All participants are required to register. Please remember to make lodging reservations by September 11.

The deadline for applying for student travel grants and for teaching and research awards is September 21. Please submit applications to the Program Chair, Christine Hippert at chippert@uw lax.edu. For more information go to https://uwm.edu/clacs/public-engagement/nccla/awards/.

Looking forward to our gathering in Eau Claire,

Christine Hippert
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