August 2019

Dear Fellow Latin Americanists,

We are extremely excited to invite you to the 52nd Annual Conference of the North Central Council of Latin Americanists. This year’s Conference, entitled Celebrating the Study of Latin America: Culture, History, Language and More, will be held October 24th-26th 2019 in McNeill Hall on the campus of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. Independent scholars, faculty, and students (both undergraduate and graduate) from over twenty-five colleges, universities, and other institutions will contribute to a variety of interesting panels spanning multiple disciplines. There are multiple panels from colleagues in Peru, panels on migration within Latin America and migration to the US, panels on politics and policy-making, and panels on pedagogy among others.

In addition, we are very excited to have a group of faculty and students from the University of Northern Iowa provide a simulation that allows participants to experience what it might be like to cross the US/Mexico border as an undocumented migrant. This interactive performance is based on research with people who have crossed the border, as well as a variety of other sources. The simulation is also trilingual (English, Spanish and indigenous).

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Jennifer Horan, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. In addition to being the Associate Director of the Honors Program at UNC-W, and having finished a four-year term as the Chief Reader of the AP Comparative Government and Politics exam, she has also done fascinating research on hazard preparedness and response, involving everything from tsunamis to volcanos.

Finally, we are happy to offer our annual Fall Teaching and Learning Workshop on the Saturday afternoon of the Conference. This year’s topic is “The Challenges and Rewards of Taking Students to Latin America.” If you’ve never taken students abroad but are thinking about it, or you have taken students but would like some insights in to how to improve the experience, or you’re a seasoned veteran with wisdom to share with others about how to make student trips to Latin America as valuable as possible, please join us!

A copy of the draft program is available on the NCCLA website. Presentations will last 15-20 minutes in each panel, leaving enough time for a question-and-answer section at the end.

As you look at the tentative schedule, be aware that it’s not too late to add papers and presentations to the program, so don’t hesitate to contact me, your Program Chair as well as the host, Eduardo Magalhães III at eduardo.magalhaes@simpson.edu for more information. In addition, if you are interested in applying for the student travel grants and for teaching and research awards, submit your applications to me. For more information on these opportunities go to https://uwm.edu/clacs/public-engagement/nccla/awards/.
Again, I would like to enthusiastically encourage you to join us this year for the annual meeting of the North Central Council of Latin Americanists. Even if you aren't presenting, or can only come for part of a day, we would love to have you join us to celebrate the study of Latin America in a variety of different disciplines.

Dr. Eduardo Magalhães III  
Program Chair, NCCLA  
Professor of Political Science  
Director of Latin American Studies  
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