Counterstories of Greater Mexico Conference

Organizers:
Debra A. Castillo (PI, Comparative Literature)
Rafael Acosta Morales (Romance Studies)
Gustavo Flores Macías (Government).

Thank you for your support for the conference that took place on March 21-22. It was a tremendous success, with two dozen presenters, including locals from Cornell and Ithaca College, as well as colleagues from numerous institutions in the USA, Canada, and Mexico. In total, about 75-100 people attended one or more of the events.

Below are reproduced copies of the conference poster and program, which were circulated widely in Cornell as well as on other local and upstate listservs, as well as printed, posted, and made available to conference attendees.
"Women of Ciudad Juárez"

8:30 pm • Ithaca College, Dillingham Center, Studio 2

Play by: Cristina Michaux (performed in English)
Directed by: Jimmy Noriega, Ph.D. ’11, Assistant Professor at the College of Wooster, Department of Theatre and Dance

This conference made possible with support from

Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies
Society for the Humanities
Latin Studies Program
Latin American Studies Program
Institute for the Social Sciences
Department of Comparative Literature
Text研究

In collaboration with Ithaca College, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and IC Theatre

Program and poster design by:
Kathy Raya ’14, Latino Studies Student Staff

Counterstories of Greater Mexico

March 21-22, 2014
A.D. White House (27 East Avenue)

Friday March 21
12:00 noon Lunch at Latino Studies Program, 4th Floor Rockefeller Hall—all participants welcome
3:30-5:00 pm Conference Opening • A.D. White House
Chairs: Deyan Carlos, Cornell University
Yolanda Padsé, University of Washington—Rothwell
“Mariano Azuela and the Other” Novel of the Mexican Revolution?

Christina Zepeda, University of Illinois
“Aren’t all books On Pachucos’ “Morisco”?

Luis Yusta Castañeda, Binghamton University
“Calefacciones: identidad shamanismo de poema/historia, “I am Isaquín”: Enfoque poscolonial?

Omar Pignarelli, Cornell University
“The Conventions of Resistance: Political Discourses in Emma Pérez’s Forgetting the Alamo, Or, Blood Memory (2005) and Carmen Boulakia’s To Live or not to Live (2011)?

4:30-6:00 pm

Keynote Speaker: Maria Josefina Subijana Portillo, NUH
Affect in the Archive: Apostasy, Profanation, Petty Thefts and the Idioms of the Spanish and U.S. Borderlands
Introduction by Rafael Acosta Morales, Cornell University
Light dinner reception catered by Tellier Mexican Grill

2:30 pm Volodia Crepuch
A.D. White House
Original creative works by Daniel Polia, Mandy Gutierrez-Gonzalez, and Rafael Acosta Morales, Cornell University

Saturday March 22
8:15 am Continental breakfast at Cornell Catering
9:00-10:45 am Urban Violence
Chair: Omar Pignarelli, Cornell University
Vojteh Garcia, Ithaca College
“Utopias perennes: Ciudad y modernidad en las crónicas de Manuel Gutierrez Núñez”
Alberto Montenegro Canales, University of Buffalo, SUNY
“Herida De Guillermo Fadiman: Un juego narrativo para mostrar la cara de铂tín y la invisibilidad de la ciudadanía”
Dafna Haimot, Cornell University
“Alistamiento de la ciudad y la modernidad en Mexico City
Growing Tendencias”

Alexandra Gonzalez Jimenez, University of Toronto
“The Volkswagen family: Notes on transportation in Mexico

11:00-12:45 pm Dixies and other monsters
Chair: Maria Jimenez-Dacal, Cornell University
Jana Hoya, University of Pittsburgh
“Los cuerpos de María Félix: la indumentaria, el pieza y el monstruo”
Zoila-Grodio Read, Graduate Center, CUNY
“Men against his Female Other: Violence and the formation of masculinity in Jesús Gregorio Álvarez’ El jardín de los demonios”
Samantha Ordóñez Rodiles, Cornell University
“Las llamadas fantasmas de la foto masculina mexicana”
María de Ali, Tacubaylco de Monterrey
“Escritiendo el cuerpo desde el marco en la literatura mexicana reciente”

2:00-3:45 pm Lunch catered by Le Coq Rico
1:30-3:15 pm Santa and the Saints
Chair: David Pella, Cornell University
Chris George, Cornell University
“Mason’s La Santa Muerte: Between State and Para-state capture”
Valentina Napolitano, University of Toronto
“El Traje Romo and political theologies of the borderlands”
David Delux, University of Kansas
“Religious Intentions on the Silver Screen: El Santo, Ministry, and Imperialism”
Rod Verduzco, Tecnológico de Monterrey
“Transcultural and transcategorial identities without The Bible vamps de Carlos Villanueva”

3:45-5:00 pm Mason’s
Chair: Tarah Acosta Morales, Cornell University
Osvaldo Zavala, College of Staten Island and Graduate Center CUNY
“El lenguaje simbólico del juego: Samuel leal y la representación de la necromancia mexicana”
Elizabeth Vides-Colado, University of Kansas
“¿Dónde está el libre de presente?”
Memoria y permanencia de la violencia en el cine documental francés contemporáneo: dos casos: le Reportage de Léusa Ruz
Ryan Long, University of Maryland
“Cuentas de la muerte: Zabludowsky, Roberto, and La transfiguración de la ciudad Juárez de
5:15-6:30 pm
Keynote Speaker: José Manuel Valenzuela Ace, CCEEE
Novartis: Cuenca y la identidad en el estado de los horizontes
Introduction by: Gustavo Flores-Macías, Cornell University

Closing: Music by Gabriela. Wine and cheese reception catered by Ithaca Bakery
8:30 pm Performance, “Women of Ciudad Juárez”
(see back cover for details)
As you can see from the program, it included academic panels on cultural and historical topics, as well as the presentation of original works by creative writers, and a profoundly impactful theatrical play and talk-back, which for logistical reasons had to be staged at Ithaca College.

The papers were all well received and sparked animated conversation, building across the two days into a rich and multi-threaded analytic context. It is very clear to all of us that this kind of small, focused conference is highly productive, and there was a consensus that we in the northeast need to continue to promote and sponsor these events. There was also discussion of the potential for turning the materials presented here into a book; this is highly flattering, of course, and something that the conference organizers will take under consideration.

Keynote Speakers:

María Josefina Saldaña Portillo is Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University and Director of Gender and Sexuality Studies Program at that institution. Her areas of research include Latina/o cultural studies; development and globalization studies; comparative race in the Americas; 20th century revolutionary thought and literature of the Americas. She is the author of *The Revolutionary Imagination in the Americas and the Age of Development* (Duke University Press, 2003).

José Manuel Valenzuela Arce is a member of the Mexican National Academy of Sciences, and professor and researcher in the Dept. of Cultural Studies in El Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Tijuana, where he is now serving as the equivalent of provost. His research touches on topics related to culture and identity, cultural borders, social movements, youth culture, and urban sociology. He has authored or edited nearly 30 books, many of them translated into numerous languages, including his recent titles: *Impecable y Diamantina. P.S. Democracia adulterada y proyecto nacional* (2010) and *Jefe de Jefes. Corridos y narcocultura en México* (2011).

Below is the press release for the play:

**Women of Ciudad Juárez**

written by Cristina Michaus  
directed and translated by Jimmy A. Noriega

THE PLAY  
*Women of Ciudad Juárez* uses the theatre as a space to examine, reflect on, and speak about the femicides taking place in Juárez, Mexico. Translated and performed in English for the first time, this play offers a voice and a space for the countless female victims whose murders have been reduced to contested numbers and a gross display of injustice. The play is not just poignant and heartbreaking; it is call for action. Showing multiple
female perspectives of life in Juárez—from mothers and daughters, to factory workers and prostitutes—the production speaks out against all forms of violence against the female body and psyche. In this staging of the show, four actresses take on the roles of the women, their families, and the officials investigating the murders. Running time: 1 hour + talkback

THE DIRECTOR
Jimmy A. Noriega is an Assistant Professor of Theatre in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the College of Wooster. He holds a PhD in Theatre Studies from Cornell University and is currently Conference Planner for the Latina/o Focus Group of ATHE. Jimmy has directed over 30 productions in English and Spanish, including invited performances at theatres and festivals in Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Israel, and Romania. In 2012, he was invited to present his directing work as part of the U.S. delegation at the UNESCO/ITI World Festival of Theatre Schools, in Europe, where he also led a master class for festival participants. In the U.S., he has directed plays in Joplin, MO; Lawrence, KS; Ithaca, NY; Wooster, OH; and at the historic Pregones Theater in New York City. In 2013, he received the Elliott Hayes Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dramaturgy from the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas. He is also the 2014 recipient of the ATHE/KCACTF Prize for Teaching Innovation. His research and teaching areas are Latin American and Latina/o theatre, as well as acting, directing, performance studies, and theatre for social change. He is currently completing a manuscript that focuses on community-based and activist performance across the Americas. His research is situated in the Bolivian, Peruvian, and Ecuadorian Andes; the Maya regions of Mexico and Guatemala; and the U.S.-Mexico border.

THE COMPANY
Teatro Travieso/Troublemaker Theatre was founded in 2012 under the direction of Jimmy Noriega. The company’s first production, Encuentro: Peru!!, was based on a five-week research trip to Peru and is about being a stranger in a foreign land. It is a self-reflective and artistic critique on border crossing, the commodification of culture, exoticism, and cultural and individual identity. The show was presented at four different locations in Peru: The Metropolitan Museum of Lima; Casa Teatro Arena y Esteras; La Universidad Científica del Sur; and Teatro Ensamble. In the U.S., it was performed at the College of Wooster. The cast of Encuentro: Peru!! was also invited to perform as an official U.S. delegation to the UNESCO/ITI World Festival of Theatre Schools, which was held in Romania from September 2-11, 2012. Women of Ciudad Juárez is the group’s second production and will go on tour in spring 2014. The show has been invited to Dartmouth College, Yale University, Davidson College, Bucknell University, Arizona State University, Bellarmine University, Ohio Wesleyan University, and the College of Wooster.

Please let me know if there are other details you would like me to provide.

The program poster and program can also be found on the Latino Studies Program website at: http://latino.cornell.edu/news-events/counterstories-conference.cfm