

Acknowledgements:

UCMLA 2012 Conference Committee:

Prof. Alex Espinoza (Faculty Advisor)
Dr. Analola Santana (Faculty Advisor)
Lena Zaghmouri (Conference Coordinator)
Gilliann Hensley-Sanchez (Assistant to Conference Coordinator)

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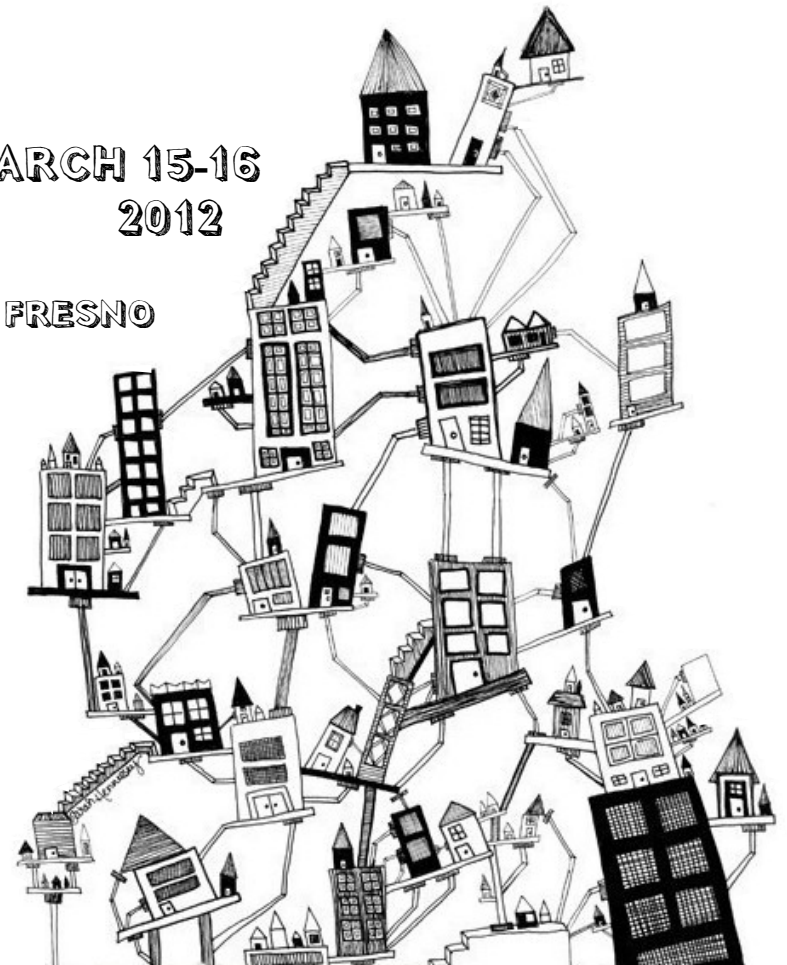
English Department's 3rd Annual

UCMLA

Undergraduate Conference on Multicultural
Literatures of the Americas

MARCH 15-16
2012

CSU FRESNO



Program:

MARCH 15

6 - 8 p.m.

“Dangerous Laughter: Comedy in Chicana(o) Theatre”
Jorge Huerta, Ph. D
PB 192

MARCH 16

All events on Friday, March 16 will be held
in the Alice Peters Auditorium

9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

I. Creating Vicissitudes and Identity Through History and Myth

- Grant Dempsey, “‘In The Very Heart’: Entrances, Empathy, and Exodus in *The Storyteller*”
- Jessica R. Santillan, “Hozho and Chaos in *Dine Bahane: The Navajo Creation Story*”
- Natalie Bachicha, “Perspectives on Immigration at the Turn of the Century: Lazarus, Roosevelt, and Gregorio Cortez”
- Chair: Murleen Ray (MFA Poetry)

11 - 12:15 p.m.

II. Psychological Responses to Oppression: The Effects of War, Passing, and Colonization

- Michelle Davis, “The Monsters We Make: Dehumanization in Lydia Styrk’s *American Tet*”
- Zoyer Zyndel, “*Passing: Social Acceptance vs. Cultural Pride*”
- Angeles Lopez, “The Decolonization of the Mind in *Crescent and Just off Main Street*”
- Chair: Erin Alvarez (MFA Creative Nonfiction)

Lunch break: 12:15 - 12:45 p.m.

12:45 - 2:00 p.m.

III. Countering Hegemonic Narratives: South Asian American and Arab American Authors’ Quest To Tell the Untold

- Cindy Bradley, “Feeding the Pangs of Nostalgia and Sense of Identity: Food’s Function in South Asian American Literature”
- Amrit Deol, “Identifying Parallel Narratives: A Closer Look at Nationhood and Sexuality in *Cracking India*”
- Carrie Ayala, “‘Blooming Buds:’ Growth Through Narrative in Bapsi Sidhwa’s *An American Bra*”
- Neama Alamri, “Empathy Through Narration: Moving the Center in South Asian American and Arab American Literature”
- Chair: Michael Gray (MFA Poetry)

2:15 - 3:30 p.m.

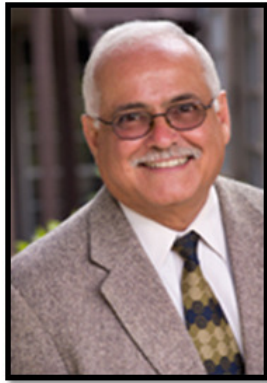
IV. Narrative Representation in Contemporary Literature (Graduate Panel)

- Erin Alvarez, “La Nueva Chicana: Estrella and the Chicana Feminist Movement in *Under the Feet of Jesus*”
- Christina McGrath, “Same Story, Different Night: Exoticizing the Other in Craig Thompson’s *Habibi*”
- Miriam Fernandez, “The Autoethnography within Autobiography: Exploring the Borderland Narrative”
- Maryam Jamali Ashtiani, “The Physical and Bodily Intersections of Racialized Identities in Nella Larsen’s *Passing*”
- Chair: Nicole Lassen (MFA Creative Nonfiction)

6 - 8 p.m.

Poetry Reading and Talk with Hayan Charara





JORGE HUERTA is a leading authority on contemporary Chicana/o and US Latina/o Theatre as well as a professional director. He has published a number of articles, edited three anthologies of plays and written the landmark books: *Chicano Theatre: Themes and Forms* (Bilingual Press, 1982) and *Chicano Drama: Performance, Society, and Myth* (Cambridge 2000). Dr. Huerta has also directed in theatres across the country, including the San Diego Repertory, Seattle's' Group Theatre, Washington D.C.'s Gala Hispanic Theatre, La Compañía de Teatro de Albuquerque and New York's Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre. Huerta has lectured and conducted workshops in Chicana/o theatre throughout the U.S. Latin America and Western Europe. In 2007 Huerta was honored by the Association for Theatre in Higher Education for "Lifetime Achievement in Educational Theater."



The son of Lebanese immigrants, **HAYAN CHARARA** grew up in Detroit, Michigan. He earned a BA in English from Wayne State University, an MA in humanities from New York University, and a PhD in literature and creative writing from the University of Houston. He is the author of the poetry collections *The Alchemist's Diary* (2001) and *The Sadness of Others* (2006). His work often explores family, loss, identity, and the experience of growing up Arab American in Detroit. Charara is the editor of the annual literary anthology *Graffiti Rag*; he also edited *Inclined to Speak: An Anthology of Contemporary Arab American Poetry* (2008). He received a National Endowment for the Arts literature fellowship in 2009. His children's book *The Three Lucys* won the Lee & Low Books' New Voices Award Honor.

