

The English Department's 15th Annual



UCMILA



Undergraduate Conference on Multiethnic Literatures of the Americas

March 8-9, 2024

California State University, Fresno

Friday, March 8

8:30-8:45 – Opening Remarks – Dr. Xuanning Fu, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs – PB 192

8:45-10:00 – Session 1: INBETWEENNESS AND SILENCE – PB 192

- Freddie Rosas (Literature) – “What Restrains Desire?: Analyzing Sexuality in *M. Butterfly*”
- Katie Xiong (Creative Writing) – “The Weeping Ghost: Intergenerational Trauma in Maxine Hong Kingston's ‘No Name Woman’”
- Mariah Gabler (English Studies) – “A Father’s Trauma: Masculinity in *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*.”
- Aura Peredia (Creative Writing) – “Transitioning in Gloria Anzaldúa's *Borderlands/La Frontera*”
- *Moderator: Luis Granados Torres (M.A., Literature)*

10:15-11:30 – Session 2: BIBLIOMEMOIRS INSPIRED BY AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURE – PB 192

- Isabella De La Torre (Creative Writing) – “My Ancestors and the Birdsong”
- Lillian Hammerstrom (Spanish and Political Science) – “The Itch Unseen”
- Stella Luna Velez (Creative Writing) – “An Incomplete History of Spider-Silk”
- Chantal Jacqua Grimm (Literature) – “Faith is in the Cure”
- *Moderator: Joseph LeForge (M.A., Literature)*

11:45-1:00 – Session 3: MAKING TEXTS LEGIBLE – PB 192

- Katie Bergman (Literature) – “Tearing the Veil: Accessing Interiority within Williams' *Dessa Rose*”
- Alaina Schneider (Literature) – “It’s All About Looks: The Gaze in Sherley Anne Williams' *Dessa Rose*”
- Billy Segura (Creative Writing) – “*The Grass Dancer* and the Necessity of Cultural Context”
- Joshua Sagouspe (Literature) – “Spirit of Reclamation: Examining Red Dress's Role in Susan Power's *Grass Dancer*”
- *Moderator: Ace Xiong (M.A., Literature)*

1:00-2:30 – Lunch Break

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Jesse Alemán,

**Professor of English and Presidential
Teaching Fellow, University of New Mexico**

**2023-2024 Distinguished Scholar in Residence,
American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA**

**2:30-3:45 p.m.
Alice Peters Auditorium (PB 191)**

**4:00-5:15 – Session 4: U.S. CULTURAL PRODUCTION IN
GLOBAL CONTEXTS – PB 192**

- Samantha Martinez Palomares (Creative Writing) – “Relationships Between Oppressed Groups as Portrayed in *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*”
- Ellis Brewer (Literature) – “The Necromancy of the Poet-Shaman: Mai Der Vang’s Poetic Reanimation of the Dead”
- Mia Hernandez (Literature) – “The Ethics of International Representation in American Films”
- Brandon Xiong (Creative Writing) – “The Silence of Culture: Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior*”
- *Moderator: Madison Johansson (M.A., Literature)*

Keynote Speaker:

**Sandra Cisneros,
Poet, Fiction Writer, Essayist, Performer, Artist**

**7:00-8:30 p.m.
Alice Peters Auditorium (PB 191)**

Book signing to follow

Saturday, March 9

**11:00-12:30 – Craft Talk with Sandra Cisneros – Philip Levine
Reading Room, Fresno State Library (LIB 2124)**

Saturday, March 9
Craft Talk with Sandra Cisneros
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Philip Levine Reading Room (LIB 2124)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UCMLA Organizing Committee:

Luis Granados Torres, Jasmine Kaur, Joseph LeForge, Alvaro Lozano

Graduate Student Volunteers:

Juan Huerta, Madison Johansson, Angela Medina-Felix, Ace Xiong

Faculty Advisors:

Melanie Hernandez, Melanie Kachadoorian,
Samina Najmi, René Rodríguez-Astacio

UCMLA thanks the following for their support:

Associated Students, Inc. (Instructionally Related Activities)

College of Arts and Humanities

Department of English

Students of English Studies Association (SESA)

Luis Granados Torres and Joseph LeForge – Presentation Workshop

Jefferson Beavers and Lisa Galvez – Administrative Support

Melanie Hernandez – Program Design