

Latin American Studies
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Grand Valley State University

Call For Papers



11th CONFERENCE of the AMERICAS
November 4, 5 and 6, 2010

Creative Agents of Change: Facing Challenges in our Communities
Featuring an Address by Doris Sommer (*Harvard University*)

The Cultural Agents Initiative at Harvard University investigates and promotes the role art and artists play in helping their communities deal with challenges of pursuing sustainable development, reducing social and economic inequality, and expanding accessible healthcare, among other issues. This has inspired our theme "Creative Agents of Change," with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean, and Latino communities in the United States. We are particularly interested in the collaboration of academic institutions and community organizations. We wonder about the role of scholars as cultural agents, and their capacity to use the humanities, and physical and social sciences, to further build civil society, and offer innovative ways to address local challenges. And we are curious about existing bridges between community activists and scholars, and new ones that might be built. We invite proposals for papers, panels, workshops, roundtable discussions, exhibitions, or performances that address this relationship between academia and community, with a focus on any one of the issues below:

Sustainable Development	Urbanization	Immigration	Gender Inequality
Environmental Security	Public Health	Emigration	Racial/Ethnic Inequality
Geohazards	Public Violence	Human Trafficking	Religious Divides

We also invite presentations on the *ways* cultural agents have addressed these challenges, including the use of the arts (painting, sculpture, film, literature, theater and other art forms), historical narratives (oral histories, testimonials, counter-histories), and unconventional pedagogies.

Proposals may be in Spanish, Portuguese, French, or English (though we cannot guarantee interpreters for presentations in Portuguese and French). The proposal deadline is **July 1, 2010**. Please use the presentation proposal, available by clicking [here](#). Submitters should keep in mind that individual presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes, and sessions will be 75 minutes, though the schedule will be flexible to accommodate diverse kinds of proposals. Workshops may be up to 3 hours and 45 minutes.

Questions? Contact Zulema Moret, GVSU Latin American Studies Program Director, 616-331-2286, moretz@gvsu.edu or Barb Blankemeier, GVSU Area Studies Center, 616-331-8110, blankemb@gvsu.edu.