

HYBRIDITY:
Examining Processes of Circulation, Collaboration, and Conflict

Graduate and Undergraduate Student Conference
Latin American Studies Center
University of Maryland, College Park

May 5-6, 2016

May 5 pre-conference workshop and opening reception

May 6 conference, keynote panel, and closing reception

The hybrid (*híbrido, hybride, ibrid*) as concept, phenomenon, and category of analysis encourages us to consider processes of mixture, and transgression; of boundaries, their construction and contestation; of exclusive and inclusive cultural practices and ways of thinking. A focus on hybridity makes especially visible processes from which certain social groups have been excluded; how these groups negotiate inclusion; and how they may form new spaces altogether. The world is and always has been connected through the constant movement of ideas, discourses, politics, and new technologies. Of special consideration for this conference is the movement of bodies that are inspired to discover new territories and ways of being. The drive to move and reinvent is a fundamental human trait. We invite participants to explore what happens when individuals and groups of people confront each other and how they choose to react, whether in conflict or in collaboration. We are interested in the processes that lead to either continued alliance or forceful struggle.

Papers should explore topics concerning Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in United States, including their relationships with other parts of the world. Applicants may consider, for example, interactions between indigenous, colonial, and immigrant peoples; social or political struggles to overcome the reproduction of exclusionary structures; transformative processes of religious syncretism; independence movements carried out by creoles, mulattoes, and mestizos, (re)constructions of national identities, Afro-Latin diasporas, labor and student movements, political organizing, and artistic interpretations of social life.

We invite graduate and upper-level undergraduate students to submit abstracts for papers, panels, and roundtables, preferably based on original research. As a trans-disciplinary center, we encourage abstracts that explore crossing boundaries between disciplines, both methodologically and analytically. Hybrid forms of presentation (multi-media, performed, visual display) are also welcome. Papers may be presented in English, Spanish, Portuguese, or Creole/French. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words.

Submissions should include:

- institution, department, degree program (BA, MA, PhD)
- email address and phone number
- AV needs
- form of presentation (read paper, poster, multi-media, performance, other)

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE is March 21, and should be emailed to LASC graduate assistant, Sabrina González (lasc@umd.edu), and LASC director, Dr. Laurie Frederik (Lfred@umd.edu). The LASC graduate student planning committee will assess submissions and announce the conference line-up by April 1, 2016.