

SILENCED VOICES

XIX Hispanic and Lusophone Conference
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
University of California Santa Barbara
April 18 and 19, 2019

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Jorge Pérez

University of Texas at Austin

What is a “voice” in both the literary and linguistic sense? It might be audible, meaning-bearing speech or song, a narratorial tone or perspective, and also a grammatical relationship to action. We might think of voice as a character, as a mediator of knowledge, or as a tool for communication and the dissemination of ideas or information. Taking these possible definitions or understandings of “voice” into account, how might we understand the meaning of “silenced voices”?

Current events lead us to think about the meaning attributed to the concept of silenced voices: these range from political movements concerned with helping sexual assault survivors to find their voice and to share their stories, to campaigns attempting to disseminate the stories of disappeared and murdered women in North, Central and South America, and also to environmental activists advocating on behalf of ecosystems and populations affected by global climate change.

In conjunction with these movements, academic disciplines have also taken up relevant scopes of analysis such as ecocriticism, gender studies, indigenous studies and chicano/a studies. Scholars employing these frames of study search for ways to give narrative and discursive space to those whose perspectives, lived experiences and ways of knowing may be discredited within mainstream cultural and academic production in the Hispanic and Lusophone fields and beyond.

“Silenced voices,” broadly understood as a repression of dialogue, a censoring or a reduction of communication, might be applied in a range of disciplines: Portuguese and Spanish linguistics, language or literary pedagogy, film studies, cultural studies and beyond.

Presentations in any field are welcome, and those dealing with the following topics will be especially welcome:

- Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Queer Studies
- Ecocriticism and Animal Studies
- Indigenous Cultures and Languages
- Bilingual Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Bilingual Education
- Censorship and Dictatorship

- Vocality and Accent Suppression
- Literary Canonization
- Cultural and Political Activism, and Performance
- Colonialism and Postcolonialism

Panels and individual presentations may be given in **English, Portuguese** or **Spanish** and each presentation should be approximately 15-20 minutes long (7-8 typed, double-spaced pages in length).

Proposals submissions must include a title, a 200-250 word abstract, and a 100-200 word biographical paragraph about the presenter/s (including organizational or institutional affiliation and an email address or phone number). Proposals must be submitted to **conference.ucsb@gmail.com** by: March 15th, 2019.