

Call for papers

(In)hospitable (con)vivencias: Inclusion and Exclusion in U.S. Latinx Literature and Culture

Any experience or account of hospitality is predicated on how we relate to the arrival and presence of the other. The welcome of a stranger often epitomizes unequal power relations where the host always defines what is seen as “strange” (Ahmed 2000). Who has the right to welcome is bound up with the “mastery” of the host (Derrida 2000b; McNulty, 2006), and with his ownership and sovereign power over real or symbolic territory. But if we understand hospitality as an encounter where others bring with themselves something that is fundamentally strange to us, any experience of living together is going to unsettle the premises of what we take for granted as secure, certain, and universal (Derrida 2000a; McNulty 2006).

Chicanx and Latinx peoples have been incorporated into the United States through multiple dynamics, which often involve exclusion and discrimination. They have allegedly been “hosted” into the American public ethos and its institutions as former immigrants, exiles, refugees, and colonized subjects. They have however often experienced this “hosting” as strangers and outsiders, as they have been excluded from and relegated to specific areas of public space and institutional life. Therefore, the condition of possibility of their inclusion into the capitalist nation-state goes hand in hand with the exclusion from rights and liberties. In these cases of exclusion within inclusion (Medrazza and Neilson 2013), the humanistic underpinnings of hospitality, understood as the welcome of a guest by a friendly host, seem to make little sense. Decolonial approaches to hospitality have sought alternative epistemic paradigms for difference, strangeness, and otherness by displacing the reference point around which communities, subjectivities and knowledge are produced (e.g. Anzaldúa, 1987; Glissant 1990; Isasi Díaz and Mendieta 2011; Owens 1997; Sandoval 2002). The *(con)vivencias* (life experiences with and among others) of Latinx individuals and collectives challenge notions of strangeness and belonging, as they propose alternative forms of community building. In Latinx writings and arts dwelling upon these experiences, hospitality may operate as a quotidian, pervasive co-operation and a powerful counter-narrative to established discourses and accounts of hospitality that only address the interests and concerns of those in power. The essays submitted should address the dynamics of exclusion, inclusion, mutuality, and transformation of hospitality in Chicanx and Latinx literature, arts, and culture. These dynamics may encompass how global capitalism, coloniality, threatened civil rights, social inequality, and historical narratives affect the so-called hosts and the so-called guests, and how new forms of hospitality beyond the host-guest binary are proposed through the creative expression of Chicanx and Latinx in the United States.

References

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- Glissant, Édouard. 1997. *Poetics of Relation*, trans. Betsy Wing. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Isasi-Díaz, Ada María, and Eduardo Mendieta. 2011. *Decolonial Epistemologies: Latino Theology and Philosophy*. New York: Fordham Press.
- McNulty, T. 2007. *The Hostess: Hospitality, Femininity, and the Expropriation of Identity*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Medrazza, Sandro, and Brett Neilson. 2013. *The Border as Method, or The Multiplication of Labor*. Durham and London: Duke UP.
- Owens, Louis. 1998. *Mixedblood Messages: Literature, Film, Family, Place*. University of Oklahoma Press.
- Sandoval, Chela. 2000. *Methodology of the Oppressed*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

The essays should be around 7000 words including bibliography and should be submitted no later than January 15th to both Pere Gifra (pere.gifra@upf.edu) and Maria Antònia Oliver-Rotger (mantonia.oliver@upf.edu)

Once a selection of essays has been made, and the publishing house has accepted the volume proposal, authors will be informed of the formatting guidelines they are to follow and of a new more immediate deadline for the submission of formatted essays.