



FRONTIERS AND WASTELANDS

Redefining the Nation in US Popular Culture

International conference @ Alcalá de Henares | November 27–28, 2023

MONDAY 27

09:00 Location TBA	REGISTRATION	
09:30–10:45	SESSION 1	
Panel A Room TBA	Poetry of the Outsiders Chair:	
Elena Cortés Farrujia	<i>Universitat de Barcelona</i>	"There is something sick abt accusing an NDN of bein an illegal immigrant": Junk, Borders and (Two-Spirit) Indigenous Representation
Matthew Lear	<i>University of Edinburgh</i>	Outside the Borders: (Re)Presentations of Guam in <i>From Unincorporated Territory</i>
Martín Praga	<i>Universidade da Coruña</i>	"A Cosmos of Violets": Violence and Magic in Maurice Kilwein Guevara's Border Writing
Panel B Room TBA	Migrant Children on the Border Chair:	
Svitlana Kot	<i>Universität des Saarlandes</i>	Child's face of the Border: Looking at Juvenile Migration through Corporeality in the Art Projects and Short Films on the US–Mexican Borderlands

Kimberly del Busto Ramírez	<i>City University of New York-LaGuardia</i>	Drawing the Line with Unaccompanied Migrant Children: Distinguishing Demarcations and Navigating Contested Narratives Post-Operation Pedro Pan
Elisa Fernández Rodríguez	<i>Universidad Autónoma de Madrid</i>	Borderland Childhood: Frontier Identity in Young Migrants
Panel C Room TBA	Art, Rasquachismo, and Frontier Identity Expressions Chair:	
Matthew Stump	<i>Montana State University</i>	Having No Reservations: All Aboard the Oregon Trail of Tiers
Marina Bernardo Flórez	<i>Universitat de Barcelona</i>	Representations of the Mexican–US border in Chicanx Children’s Picturebooks
Joseline González-Ajanel	<i>Texas A&M University</i>	“Hay Una Esquina” in Los Angeles: Journeys, Rasquachismo, and Space in Latinx Film

11:00–12:15	SESSION 2	
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Panel A Room TBA	Male Perspectives and Metaphorical Borderlands Chair:	
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Michael Olusa	<i>Université de Nantes</i>	Passing: Transgressing the Ethnic-Racial Boundary in Philip Roth’s <i>The Human Stain</i>
Simone Francescato	<i>Università Ca’ Foscari</i>	The Moral Wasteland of a War Hero: The Two Versions of <i>A Stranger in My Arms</i>
Peter Ferry	<i>Universitetet i Stavanger</i>	Borders and Masculinity in George Saunders’ Fiction

Panel B Room TBA	Liminality in the US Wastelands Chair:	
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Ilias Ben Mna	<i>Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin</i>	The Living Desert: The Borderlands of New Mexico as a Cultural Imaginary for Precarious Families in <i>Gas Food Lodging</i>
Isabel Oliveira	<i>NOVA FCSH–CETAPS</i>	Nomadland(s): Frontiers and Wastelands in the 21st Century
Gianna Fusco	<i>Università dell’Aquila</i>	“La ciudad se llama Duke/Nuevo Mexico el estado”: The Border Region as Waste Land in <i>Breaking Bad</i>

Panel C Room TBA	Coping with the Ruthless Frontier Chair:	
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Elżbieta Horodyska	<i>Uniwersytet Warszawski</i>	The Cinematic <i>The Sisters Brothers</i> : Strands of Kindness and Care in a Tale of the Gold-Rush-Frenzied American West
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Steve Spence	<i>Clayton State University</i>	Westerns, Wastelands, and <i>The Last of Us</i>
Franziska Friedl	<i>Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg</i>	"Heading to the Promised Land": Echoes of the Frontier in the (Post-)Apocalyptic Landscape of Max Brooks' <i>World War Z</i>

12:30–13:45 Room TBA	KEYNOTE JOHN WILLS (University of Kent) Doom Town and Las Vegas in the 1950s: Fun and Fear on the Atomic Frontier Chair: Anna Marta Marini	
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14:00–15:00	LUNCH BREAK Location TBA	
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15:15–16:30	SESSION 3	
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Panel A Room TBA	Representations of Necropolitical Violence on the Border Chair:	
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Marek Paryż	<i>Uniwersytet Warszawski</i>	Reinterpreting the Trope of Captivity in a Contemporary Context: The Dynamics of Border Crossing in <i>Sicario: Day of the Soldado</i>
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Matthew Carter	<i>Manchester Metropolitan University</i>	The Horrific Border: National Identity in <i>Savageland</i>
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Michael Fuchs	<i>Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck</i>	Ludifying the US–Mexico Border in the Call of Duty Series
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Panel B Room TBA	Exile, Migration, and Integration Chair:	
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Oksana Starshova	<i>Pembroke College, University of Cambridge</i>	Space and Body Transgressions in Immigrants' New York: Graphic Novel <i>Unterzakhn</i> by Leela Corman
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Olha Polishchuk	<i>Universität des Saarlandes</i>	From Borders to Belonging: Oksana Liaturynska's Immigration Narrative and the Search for Identity in the USA
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Bela Gligorova	<i>Independent scholar</i>	Between Vulnerability and Resilience: A Page Out of Aleksandar Hemon's Writings on Exile
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16:45–18:00	SESSION 4	
Panel A Room TBA	Political Discourses on US Boundaries Chair:	
Saïd Ouaked	<i>Université de Limoges</i>	The Concept of “Frontier”: Semantic Shifts and Meaning in Trump’s Post-American World
Marcial González	<i>University of California, Berkeley</i>	Marxism and Borderlands Theory
Susannah Mandel	<i>Independent scholar</i>	“Where No Human Being Would Want to Live,” or, Trump in Philadelphia: Maligning Black Neighborhoods and Delegitimizing Black Voters from 1865 to 2020
Panel B Room TBA	Boundaries of Blackness Chair:	
Michael Docherty	<i>Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck</i>	Frontiers of Blackness: Contesting California in African American Film
dann j. Broyld	<i>University of Massachusetts Lowell</i>	Borders and <i>The Book of Negroes</i> : The Miniseries that Deconstructs the American-Canadian Dominant National Narratives
Virginia Bonner	<i>Clayton State University</i>	“Friends on the Other Side”: New Orleans and Blackness in Disney’s <i>The Princess and the Frog</i>
18:15–19:30	SESSION 5	
Panel A Room TBA	Asian and Arab American Experiences Chair:	
Hongying Wang	<i>Universidad Carlos III de Madrid</i>	A Chinese Americans’ Brothel in San Francisco: A Study of <i>The Daughter of Happiness</i> (2001) by Geling Yan
Cristina Pivadori	<i>Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona</i>	“A Man of Two Faces”: The Representation of Refugee Imaginaries in Viet Thanh Nguyen’s <i>The Sympathizer</i> (2019)
Tritha Abdelaziz	<i>Université Hassan I</i>	Border Crossing and Cultural Encounters: Arab Female Acrobat and Dance Performers in North American Theatres

Panel B Room TBA	Mexico and Transnationality in Film Chair:	
Juan Antonio Del Monte Madrigal	<i>Colegio de la Frontera Norte</i>	From the Neighbor's Backyard to Our Wasteland: The Making of a Mexican Border City as Deportees Disposal Pouch in Four Films
Nicholas P. Taylor	<i>San José State University</i>	In Defense of Iñárritu's <i>Bardo</i>
Milan Hain	<i>Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci</i>	South of El Paso: Expanding the Canon of US Films Noir Set in Mexico

20:30	CONFERENCE DINNER Location TBA	
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TUESDAY 28		
09:15–10:45	SESSION 6	
Panel A Room TBA	Border and Immigration Policies Chair:	
Will McCorkle Stephanie Madison Mikel Cole Loren Batiz	<i>College of Charleston</i> <i>Clemson University</i> <i>University of Houston</i> <i>College of Charleston</i>	The US Border in the Week after Title 42

Shahanaz Parven	<i>Università di Palermo</i>	The Difference in Treatment of Russians, Ukrainians, and Latinos at the Border
Gabriele De Luca	<i>Universität für Weiterbildung Krems</i>	
Will McCorkle	<i>College of Charleston</i>	
Beth Lloyd	<i>College of Charleston</i>	
Antonio Daniel Juan Rubio	<i>Universidad de Granada</i>	The US–Mexican Frontier: Immigration Policies of the US Administrations
Isabel María García Conesa	<i>Centro Universitario de la Defensa de San Javier</i>	
Panel B Room TBA	Chicana and Female Borderland Experience Chair:	
Nicole Henares	<i>Independent scholar</i>	Desolation and Magic: The Allegory of Cannery Row
Liliana Lule	<i>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</i>	“Wherever I go I carry home on my back”: Notions of Belonging in Ana Castillo’s <i>Sapogonia</i>
Christianna Anneke Snyder	<i>Texas A&M University</i>	Connecting the Collage: The Borderlands of Nostalgia in Norma E. Cantú’s <i>Canícula</i> and <i>Cabañuelas</i>
Erin Murrach-Mandril	<i>University of Texas at Arlington</i>	The Angel of the Alamo: How Adina de Zavala Helped Build San Antonio’s Timescape
Panel C Room TBA	Contemporary Migratory Experiences and Boundaries Chair:	
Antía Rivera de la Vega	<i>Universidade da Coruña</i>	Migration Phenomena and the Role of Women: Representations in Twenty-First-Century Literature
Magda Rodriguez	<i>Texas A&M University</i>	The Interspace of Valeria Luiselli: The Latinoamericano Across Borders
Debarchana Baruah	<i>Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen</i>	Crossing Over to <i>el otro lado</i> with a Bottle of Pepsi
11:00–12:15	SESSION 7	
Panel A Room TBA	Visual Borders and Meaning-Making Chair:	

Gwen Cressman	<i>Université de Strasbourg</i>	The Aesthetics of the Migrant Body at the Border
Rodrigo Rosas Torres	<i>Colegio de la Frontera Norte</i>	Análisis de una imagen iconica de las caravanas migrantes desde la economía política de los medios
Derek Castle	<i>University of New Hampshire</i>	Where Dream(er)s Go to Die?: The Emptiness of Graphic Space in <i>Frontera</i>
Panel B Room TBA	Borderland Theater and Performance Chair:	
Laurie Ellinghausen	<i>University of Missouri</i>	“Ellos no entienden”: Linguistic and Cultural Disruption in <i>Hamlet, El Príncipe de Denmark</i>
Grzegorz Welizarowicz	<i>Uniwersytet Gdański</i>	Calafia and Ramona in the Garden of Freeways: Carlos Morton’s <i>Los Dorados</i> as the Wasteland of Memory and Alethic Frontier
Antònia Oliver Rotger	<i>Universitat Pompeu Fabra</i>	Guillermo Gómez-Peña’s Mobile Performatic Border
Panel C Room TBA	Boundaries in the Wilderness Chair:	
Louise Akers	<i>New York University</i>	Seisms at the Frontier: Protocol and Abstraction
Laura Martínez-García	<i>Universidad de Oviedo</i>	Permeable Borders: Performing “Otherness” Within the Limits of Yosemite National Park
Robyn Johnson	<i>University of Florida</i>	Crossing Wild Boundaries: Establishing the American Wilderness as a Transporting Boundary
12:30–13:45 Room TBA	ROUNDTABLE REWEST: Research in Western American Literature and Culture (UPV/EHU) Chair:	
David Río	TBA	
Amaia Ibararan	On Westerns, Gender and Genre Borders: Some Examples	
Ángel Chaparro	Borders Don’t Stop Sound Waves: The Soundtrack of the American West	
Amaia Soroa	Latinx Podcasts in the American West: Revising the Myth, Crossing the Borderlands	
14:00–15:00	LUNCH BREAK Location TBA	

15:15–16:30	SESSION 8	
Panel A Room TBA	Frontier Domesticity and Gender Chair:	
Sofia Martinicorena	<i>Universidad Complutense de Madrid</i>	Explorations of the Wilderness Plot in Marilynne Robinson's <i>Housekeeping</i> (1980)
Elizabeth Coonrod Martínez	<i>Sonoma State University</i>	Racial Heritage and Borderlands Experience in Laura Esquivel's Discourse
Belaid Afettouche	<i>Université Mouloud Mammeri de Tizi-Ouzou</i>	The Frontier, Gender and Nationhood in Catherine Maria Sedgwick's <i>Hope Leslie</i>
Panel B Room TBA	The Euro-Western Chair:	
Zoltan Peterecz	<i>Eszterházy Károly University</i>	The Representation of the Frontier in Westerns
Maja Daniel	<i>Universidad del País Vasco/EHU</i>	Anti-Heroes and Cripples in the American Old West Frontier: Myth Shattering and Ableism in Jean Van Hamme and Grzegorz Rosinski's <i>Western</i>
Juan Antonio Sánchez Jiménez	<i>Independent scholar</i>	Spanish Westerns and Comics: The Work of Antonio Hernández Palacios
16:45–18:00	SESSION 9	
Panel A Room TBA	Intersections of Gender and Ethnicity on the Frontier Chair:	
André Francisco	<i>ULICES–ULisboa</i>	"You ever think about leaving?": The Subversion of the Mythic American Frontier in <i>The Little Woods</i> (2018)
Garbiñe Maruri Pérez	<i>Universidad del País Vasco/EHU</i>	A New Image is Possible: Self-Made Girlbosses in Willa Cather's <i>My Ántonia</i>
Paula K. Read	<i>University of Bristol</i>	The Invisible Frontier: A White Descendant's Family Perspective
Panel B Room TBA	North American Frontiers in Comics Chair:	
José Manuel Correoso Rodenas	<i>Universidad Complutense de Madrid</i>	The Skulled Road to Oregon: <i>Manifest Destiny</i> and the Re-Definition of the Pioneers' Frontier

David H. Evans	<i>Dalhousie University</i>	"He could still be there today!": Fractured Frontiers in Joe Sacco's <i>Paying the Land</i>
Lara RöBig	<i>Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München</i>	"Go West, Young Duck": The Renegotiation of the American frontier in a Scrooge McDuck Comic

18:15–19:15 Room TBA	KEYNOTE CATHRYN HALVERSON (Södertörn University) Playing House in the American West Chair: Laura Álvarez Trigo	
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