

International Conference | Frontiers and Wastelands: The Boundaries of US American Identity

November 25-27, 2024 @ Alcalá de Henares (Madrid, ES)

MONDAY 25		
08:45 Colegio de los Trinitarios	REGISTRATION	
09:15–10:30	SESSION 1	
Panel A Room TBA	Borderlands of Identity: Decay and Change in Modern American Cinema and Literature Chair:	
Naomi Sutton	<i>University of Manchester</i>	The Boundaries of Femininity in the Westerns of 1980
Magdalena Müllerová	<i>University of Manchester</i>	“That’s the kind of story childrens like—Indians and buffalo stampedes, even that devil woman stuff”: <i>Dessa Rose</i> (1986) and Black Women’s Frontier
Heena Hussain	<i>University of Manchester</i>	Assimilating the Exceptional Immigrant in Disney’s <i>Encanto</i>
Panel B Room TBA	Boundaries of Motherhood Chair:	
Carolina Toscano	<i>Saint Louis University</i>	Rhetorics at the Intersection of Mothering and Migration
Elisa Fernández Rodríguez	<i>Universidad Autónoma de Madrid</i>	“A border between your legs”: Motherhood and the Borderlands in Gabriela García’s <i>Of Women and Salt</i>

Iván de la Torre Franco	<i>Universidad de Huelva</i>	The Subaltern Mother in the US: An Exploration of Multi-Ethnic Approaches to Motherhood in <i>Little Fires Everywhere</i>
Panel C Room TBA	Extractive Histories Chair:	
Matthew Stump	<i>Montana State University</i>	Graveyards of a Mine: Domestic War Heroes of Montana Coal and Iron Co. (1943)
Annie Sand	<i>University of Iowa</i>	Osiris in Appalachia: Poetic and Geographic Border Crossing in Muriel Rukeyser's <i>The Book of the Dead</i>
Enrico Mariani	<i>Ca' Foscari Università di Venezia</i>	Oil Derricks, Jackrabbits, and Workers in the Southern California Deserts: The Animality Discourse in <i>Sinclair's Oil!</i>

10:45–12:00	SESSION 2	
Panel A Room TBA	Poetics of Otherness Chair:	
Anicet Christian Donfack Sounna	<i>Universidad de Alcalá</i>	Poética de la frontera y del cruce fronterizo en <i>A Better Life</i> de Chris Weitz y <i>Un verano en Brooklyn</i> de Ira Sach
José Manuel Rodríguez Herrera	<i>Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria</i>	Beyond Borders: The Cultural Poetics of Juan Felipe Herrera's <i>Möbius Strip</i>
Slađana Stamenković	<i>University of Novi Sad</i>	The Liminal Other: Transgressive Emigrant/Immigrant Identities in <i>The Sympathizer</i> by Viet Thanh Nguyen
Panel B Room TBA	Whiteness and the Boundaries of the Nation Chair:	
Natalia Colón Alvarez	<i>The Ohio State University</i>	The Mapped Nation: Coalescing a National Identity through Maps and Cartoons
Melanie E L Bush	<i>Adelphi University</i>	Who are "We"; Who are "They"? In What Ways Does this Matter? Whiteness and the U.S. Nation
Allen Neal	<i>Wichita State University</i>	Race, Public Art, and Transactional Politics in the United States: White Supremacy Never Dies
Panel C Room TBA	Latina Experiences and Assimilation Chair:	

Jelena Pataki Šumiga	<i>Josip Juraj Strossmayer University</i>	(Non)Violent Border in <i>I'm Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter</i> (2017)
Luisa Sánchez Rivas	<i>Universidad Nebrija</i>	"Fronterótica": Politics of Location en (la) <i>Vida</i>
Zdravka Katinić	<i>Karlstad University</i>	A "Borderline Schizoid Response" and a "Peculiar Mix" – The Crossroad of Coming of Age and Assimilation in the USA

12:15–13:30 Salón de Actos (Rectorado)	Conference opening KEYNOTE S. JONATHON O'DONNELL (Queen's University Belfast) TBA Chair:	
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13:45–15:15	LUNCH BREAK Location TBA	
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15:30–16:45	SESSION 3	
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Panel A Room TBA	Detention, Citizenship, and Politics of Violence Chair:	
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Mariana Magaña Gamero	<i>University of California Irvine</i>	There is More to Life than Just U.S. Citizenship
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Maria Antònia Oliver-Rotger	<i>Universitat Pompeu Fabra</i>	Breaking Down State Borders from Within: Cristina Ibarra and Alex Rivera's Docu-Thriller <i>The Infiltrators</i>
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Molly Carlin	<i>University of Sussex</i>	"A 'Correct' Inmate is a Silent One": Prisons, Transfers and the Boundaries of Political Freedom
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Panel B Room TBA	(South)Western Frontiers Chair:	
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Belaid Afettouche	<i>Mouloud Mammeri University of Tizi-Ouzou</i>	Gender and Nationhood in Owen Wister's <i>The Virginian</i>
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Petra Sršić	<i>Josip Juraj Strossmayer University</i>	The Portrayal of the Frontier and the Frontier Myth in Brandon Sanderson's Wax and Wayne Series
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Luis Lorenzo	<i>Independent scholar</i>	(One) American Southwest Identity: Roads' Juxtaposition plus Cultural Overlaying
Panel C Room TBA	Contested Boundaries in Young Adult Literature Chair:	
Valentina Markasović	<i>Josip Juraj Strossmayer University</i>	The Forests of District 12: The Environment as a Frontier in the Hunger Games Universe
Elisa Pesce	<i>University of Glasgow</i>	Transcending Life, Death, and Magic: The Falt Lines of Identity in Aiden Thomas's <i>Cemetery Boys</i>
Beatriz Hermida Ramos	<i>Universidad de Salamanca</i>	Reject Modernity, Embrace Science Fiction: Tracing (Un)Civilized Bodies in Alix E. Harrow's <i>The Ten Thousand Doors of January</i>

17:00–19:00	SESSION 4	
17:00–18:30	Music and Musicals Chair:	
Panel A Room TBA		
Jiangtao Harry Gu	<i>Hobart and William Smith Colleges</i>	Juanita Hall's Chop Suey
Maz Jardon	<i>University of Amsterdam</i>	Depictions of Poverty in Extreme Music
Francesca furlan	<i>Università di Padova</i>	Deconstructing US Foundational Myths: <i>Hamilton's</i> Politics of Belonging
17:00–18:45	(Neo)Western Frontiers Chair:	
Panel B Room TBA		
Patricia Catoira	<i>Montana State University</i>	The Subversions of the Western in the TV Series <i>Longmire</i>
Michael Fuchs	<i>Innsbruck University</i>	Going South—Encountering Prehistory: US Imperialism, Prehistoric Animals, and the (Deep) Pastness of Mexico
Margaux Collin	<i>University of Reims</i>	Challenging racial boundaries through the use of discourse in <i>Django Unchained</i> by Quentin Tarantino (2012)
Ismael Ibáñez Rosales	<i>University of La Rioja</i>	From Arden to America: The Symbolology of the Slain Deer in American Literature, Film, and Frontier Mythology

17:00–19:00	Race, Politics and Activism	
Panel C Room TBA	Chair:	
Aneta Dybska	<i>University of Warsaw</i>	The #ADOS Movement and the Redrafting of Racial Roundaries in the US Today
Benjamin Lynerd	<i>Christopher Newport University</i>	To Redraw the Contours of American Identity: Black Abolitionists in the Jacksonian Era
Antonio Reboredo	<i>Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya</i>	The Limits of Urbanity: the Breaking of Bourgeois City Boundaries through Revolution, from France's Paris Commune to America's "Ghetto Riots"
Melanie Gish	<i>Independent scholar</i>	Creation Care Activism and the Limits of Evangelical Religio-Political Identity
Petra Klug	<i>University of Bremen</i>	Religious Plurality's Final Boundary. The Atheist as the Ultimate Other

20:30	CONFERENCE DINNER Location TBA	
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TUESDAY 26		
09:00–10:30	SESSION 5	
Panel A Room TBA	Authors of Native and Mixed Ethnic Heritage	
	Chair:	
Bethany Webster-Parmentier	<i>Europa-Universität Flensburg</i>	Reservation Boundaries, National Parks, and Rematriation in Stephen Graham Jones's <i>The Only Good Indians</i>
Judit Agnes Kadar	<i>Sports University of Budapest</i>	Tough Belonging: Marginality Contested in Southwest Mixed Heritage Fiction

Daniel McKay	<i>New Mexico Military Institute</i>	The Unfillable Stomach: Trauma and its Discontents in Louise Erdrich's <i>The Round House</i>
Eleni Ermioni Tasioula	<i>Independent scholar</i>	On being a vulnerable reader: A Reparative Reading of Native American Identity in Louise Erdrich's <i>The Sentence</i> (2021)
Panel B Room TBA	Art and Visual Boundaries Chair:	
Michael Russo	<i>University of Newcastle</i>	1964: The Ins and Outs of American Painting
Aitana Monzón-Blasco	<i>Universidad de Zaragoza</i>	Between Poetry and Painting: Mina Loy and Dorothea Tanning's Avant-Garde Yearning Maternities
Elizabeth Frasco	<i>Stevens Institute of Technology</i>	Crisis of Image, Crisis of Self: Delilah Montoya and the Theater of the American Borderlands
Kimberly Ramírez	<i>City University of New York</i>	Surrogate Soil: Examining Ana Mendieta's Earthworks in Exile
Panel C Room TBA	The Fallout Franchise and its Wastelands Chair:	
Sarah Wagstaffe	<i>Lancaster University</i>	Americana at the End of the World: Defining American Identity in the Wastelands of the <i>Fallout</i> Series
Elsa del Campo Ramírez	<i>Universidad Nebrija</i>	The Last Frontier... Hero? Mas-cool-inities and Mask-ulinities in <i>True Detective</i> and <i>Fallout</i>
Abdullah Derin Nalan Şenata	<i>Dokuz Eylül University</i>	From Vaults to Wastelands: Exploring Utopian, Dystopian, and Atopian Environments in the <i>Fallout</i> series
Aslihan Yucel	<i>University of Santiago de Compostela</i>	Reimagining the American History in the Postapocalyptic World of <i>Fallout 3</i>
10:45–12:15	SESSION 6	
Panel A Room TBA	Boundaries of Queerness Chair:	
Pilar Illanes Vicioso	<i>Universidad de Cádiz</i>	Crossing the Line in <i>All the Beauty and the Bloodshed</i> : Laura Poitras' Documenting of Otherness in the HIV/AIDS and Opioid Epidemics through Nan Goldin's Photography and Activism

J. Javier Torres-Fernández	<i>University of Almería</i>	Crossing Borders for HIV/AIDS Treatment in <i>Dallas Buyers Club</i> (2013)
Anna Ferrari	<i>Sapienza Università di Roma</i>	Big Ideas and Stories: Contaminating America with the Other
Bennet Schaber	<i>State University of New York, Oswego</i>	Sherwood Anderson's Borderlands
Panel B Room TBA	Anzaldúan Reverberations Chair:	
Tristan Graney	<i>Texas Christian University</i>	Liminal Spaces and Racial Narratives in South Texas: An Analysis through Gloria Anzaldúa's <i>Borderlands/La Frontera</i>
Tidita Abdurrahmani	<i>Beder University College</i>	Permeable Narratives and Body Borderlands. Self, Body and Outsiderhood in Audre Lorde and Gloria Anzaldúa
Anne Dewey	<i>Saint Louis University</i>	The Supreme Court v. Gloria Anzaldúa and Natalie Diaz: Ethnic Borders in US Law and Poetry
Daniela Sandoval Fierro	<i>Universidad Complutense de Madrid</i>	Analyzing Gloria Anzaldúa's Politics of Identity: A Critical Examination of Border Reframing
Panel C Room TBA	Critical Approaches to Border Enforcement Chair:	
Lena Elipe Gutiérrez	<i>University of Oviedo</i>	Border Patrol Stories of Violence and Resistance: Francisco Cantú's <i>The Line Becomes a River</i> and Jenn Budd's <i>Against the Wall</i>
Schweta Gupta	<i>Delhi University</i>	The Other Side of the Line: A Different Perspective through the Eyes of Border Patrol Agents
Özlem Atar	<i>Queen's University</i>	Gritty Dances of Americanness in Francisco Cantú's <i>The Line Becomes a River</i> and Aaron Bobrow-Strain's <i>The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez</i>
Justin Cosner	<i>University of Iowa</i>	The Borders of Play: Simulated Borders and Real Politics in Video Games
12:30–13:30 Salón de Actos (Rectorado)	KEYNOTE MATTHEW CARTER (Manchester Metropolitan University) TBA Chair:	

13:45–15:15	LUNCH BREAK Location TBA	
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15:30–16:45	SESSION 7	
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Panel A Room TBA	Where Do Aliens Go? Borderlands, Boundaries and After Chair:	
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Mateus Rui	<i>CETAPS; NOVA-FCSH</i>	Mapping the borders of imaginary worlds with Robert Jordan's <i>The Wheel of Time</i>
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Catarina Almeida	<i>CETAPS; NOVA-FCSH</i>	Family, memory and border politics in Alma García's <i>All the Rises</i> (2023)
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Isabel Oliveira	<i>CETAPS; NOVA-FCSH</i>	Where do Aliens Go? Valeria Luiselli's <i>Essay in Forty Questions</i>
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Panel B Room TBA	US Imperialism and Island Territories Chair: Anna Marta Marini (Universidad de Alcalá)	
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Elías Brossoise	<i>Universidad de Málaga</i>	I am not an American: Kaho'olawe, desmontando identidades
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Ross Nedervelt	<i>Florida International University</i>	Geopolitical Security, Identity, and the Revolutionary Atlantic Border-sea, 1775–1820
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Antonieta Reis Leite	<i>University of Coimbra</i>	Exported borderlands: The Lages Field US military base in Terceira island (Azores, Portugal)
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Panel C Room TBA	Female Writers and the Frontiers of Domesticity Chair:	
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Yuliya Stodolinska	<i>Saarland University</i>	<i>Little House on the Prairie</i> : Crossing Borders and Exploring the Boundaries of US Identity
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Halyna Zaporozhets	<i>Saarland University</i>	Landscape and Identities in Nebraska 20th Century Women's Writing
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Janice Lynne Deitner	<i>Independent scholar</i>	Boundaries of Knowledge, Community, and American Identity in the Work of Shirley Jackson
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17:00–18:00	SESSION 8	
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Panel A Room TBA	Canadian Borders and Imaginaries Chair:	
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Graham G. Dodds	<i>Concordia University</i>	Northern Sanctuary: Canada as a Safe Haven from American Dangers, Real and Imagined
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Sebastian Letts	<i>Independent scholar</i>	Challenging the Boundaries Together, Communities Encountering the Western US-Canada Border Post-1846 and During the Period of Immigration Restriction/Asian Exclusion
Panel B Room TBA	Black Women and Marginalization Chair:	
Ignacio Fernández Vázquez	<i>Universidad Complutense de Madrid</i>	Ordinary Margins: Race, Slow Violence, and The American (anti)Pastoral in Jesmyn Ward's <i>Salvage The Bones</i> (2011)
Marta Miña	<i>UPV/EHU</i>	Breaking the Saloon Female Stereotypes: "Stagecoach" Mary Fields
Panel C Room TBA	TBA Chair:	
Ewa Antoszek	<i>Maria Curie-Skłodowska University</i>	From Hostipitality to Conviviality (Again): Tanya Aguiñiga's Metabolizing the Border
Richard D. Reitsma	<i>Canisius University</i>	Ghosts, Magic Realism, and Superheroes: Depicting Hope in the Graphic Novels of Julio Anta with the artists Jacoby Salcedo, Anna Wieszczyk, and Lisa Sterle
18:15–19:30		
SESSION 9		
Panel A Room TBA	Interethnic Relations Chair:	
David Clark	<i>Universidad de A Coruña</i>	The Irish in America in the Fiction of Ken Bruen
Jesús Blanco Hidalgo	<i>Universidad de Córdoba</i>	"Listening through a gray drizzle of static": The Reverb of History in Hari Kunzru's <i>White Tears</i>
Eva Pelayo Sañudo	<i>Universidad de Cantabria</i>	The Power of Love: Crossing Racial Boundaries in Italian American Narratives
Panel B Room TBA	(Re)Approaching the Frontier, Colonialism and the Manifest Destiny Chair:	
Karolina Kowalska	<i>University of Warsaw</i>	The Forge, the Sun and the Mother: Beyond Borders. Decoding the Frontier and Navigating Tribal Identity in the Horizon Video Game Franchise
Manuel Herrero-Puertas	<i>National Taiwan University</i>	Frontiers of Attention: Frederick Jackson Turner's FOMO

Jante Borremans	<i>University of Antwerp</i>	Mapping Oz: A Narratological Study of the Setting and its Politics in L. Frank Baum's <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> and Gregory Maguire's <i>Wicked</i>
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WEDNESDAY 27

09:00–10:30	SESSION 10	
Panel A Room TBA	Male Writers and Conflicted Identities Chair:	
Mikel Barea Pérez	<i>UPV/EHU</i>	Under Siege: Post-9/11 American Identity in Don DeLillo's <i>Falling Man</i>
Tatu Pajula	<i>Tampere University</i>	Identity as a Project, Process and Passage – Working Through Liminality in the Early Novels of Joseph McElroy
Ana Barroso	<i>CEAUL/ULICES, University of Lisbon</i>	The Final Frontier: From Melville's Oceanic Voyage to Mccarthy's Desert Wasteland: Representations of Wilderness and Violence
Daniel Wartham	<i>University of South Carolina</i>	"A western kinsman of the sun": An Examination of <i>On the Road</i> to find National Identity
Panel B Room TBA	Memoir and Autobiography Chair:	
Omar Figueras	<i>Miami Dade College</i>	Trickster in Limbo: Transitional and Permanent Liminality in Edel Rodriguez's <i>Worm</i>
Mary Xinyue Fu	<i>Chinese University of Hong Kong</i>	The Marginal Man and Borderland: Cultivating Inter-Species/-Cultural Kinship in Asian-American Eco-Narrative
Britta Muszeika	<i>Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz</i>	Beyond Stereotypical Boundaries: Re-Imagining U.S. Identity in Native American Autobiographies

Monika Dabrowska	<i>Universidad Internacional de La Rioja</i>	Interseccionalidad de espacio fronterizo Mexicoamericano: una lectura de Norma Elia Cantú
Panel C Room TBA	Black Women's Experiences Chair:	
Hamid Masfour	<i>Sultan Moulay Slimane University</i>	Counter-narratives to the American Dream and Americanness in Minority Literatures: The Cases of Toni Morrison and Jumpa Lahiri
Laura Roldán-Sevillano	<i>Universidad de Zaragoza</i>	Where the American Dream Ends: Mapping Urban Borders and Segregation in the Post-Great Recession Black Immigrant Novel
Irene Izquierdo Marqueño	<i>Universitat de València</i>	Unfeeling in <i>Luster</i> by Raven Leilani: Sentimentalism as a Building Block of the US American Identity
Martina Lombardo	<i>Sapienza Università di Roma</i>	Blurring the Boundaries: Race, Gender, Identity, and Multimediality in Brit Bennett's <i>The Vanishing Half</i>

10:45–12:15	SESSION 11	
Panel A Room TBA	Science Fiction and Space Frontiers Chair:	
Tomasz Jacheć	<i>University of Warmia and Mazury</i>	Cosmic Wastelands and Multiple Frontiers: Pushing the Boundaries in <i>For All Mankind</i> , the TV Series
Natalia Mirón-Florida	<i>UPV/EHU</i>	Freeing Pandora: Militarism, Frontier-Making and US Identity in James Cameron's Avatar Franchise
Rowena Squires	<i>University of Cambridge</i>	The Anthropocene and "Final Fun-tier" in Pixar's <i>Wall-E</i> : American National Identity in Outer Space
Beatrix Henry	<i>Bard Graduate Center</i>	Bicentennial Space Age: The Construction of America's New Frontier
Panel B Room TBA	TV Series and Racial Boundaries Chair:	

María Elena Serrano Moya	<i>Universidad de Alcalá</i>	The Reservation in <i>Reservation Dogs</i> : Between a Human and Cultural Wasteland and a Source of Identity
Stefano Franceschini	<i>Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza"</i>	"Are You Scared?": American Anxieties and the Racialized Other in <i>Them</i>
Emma Dinuzzi	<i>Independent scholar</i>	Beyond the Horizon: Uncovering American Identity in <i>True Detective</i> , <i>Night Country</i> and <i>Reservation Dogs</i>
Sergio García Jiménez	<i>University of Oviedo</i>	Racial Borders and Supernatural Fears in Little Marvin's <i>Them: The Scare</i> (2024)
Panel C Room TBA	Euro- and Transnational Western Chair:	
Marek Paryż	<i>University of Warsaw</i>	The Boundaries of Polish-American Identity as Portrayed in Polish Literary Westerns
Sara El Majhad	<i>Aix-Marseille University</i>	Cowboys, Natives and Belly Dancers: Hollywood's North African Frontier
Cody Alexander Troyan	<i>Universidad de Alcalá</i>	Hybridizing Billy the Kid: A Transnational Reading of the Old West in Ramón J. Sender's <i>El bandido adolescente</i>
Christopher R. Carter	<i>Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha</i>	Reinscribing the Border: Shifting Boundaries of Identity and Adaptation in Four Versions of <i>The Great Turkey Walk</i>

12:30–13:30 Salón de Actos (Rectorado)	KEYNOTE KATLIN MARISOL SWEENEY-ROMERO (UC Davis) TBA Chair: Conference closing	
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