

Call for Papers:  
1<sup>st</sup> Annual Languages and Literature Conference  
Comparative Literature Graduate Association – Louisiana State University  
“Literature at its Boundaries”  
March 24-25, 2017

One of Gloria Anzaldúa’s major contributions to the United States’ academic community was her introduction of the term *mestizaje*, meaning a state of being beyond binary ("either/or") conceptions. She proposes to look at the frontiers, the borders, used to conceptualize identity and self-configuration. This space in-between provides new avenues for observing reality and understanding the limitations of cataloging and classification. A comparative approach allows one to read literature at its boundaries, between boundaries, across boundaries, and beyond boundaries, providing opportunities for cross-disciplinary study with various fields in the arts, humanities, and even sciences. Shakespeare’s plays and the various film adaptations, the Argentinian dictatorship portrayed in Inés Ullanovsky’s photography and in Tununa Mercado’s novel, *Buñuel*, Dalí and Lorca’s Surrealism – these are just some examples of reading literature in contact with other arts. It is also possible to expand these boundaries to other disciplines: literature and philosophy, literature and geography, literature and religious studies, etc.

Reading literature at its boundaries means interpreting literature as part of a whole social and human expression. In this interaction and contact with other artistic forms, literature re-signifies and re-vitalizes itself as a vivid cultural artifact.

Given the importance of the concept and the metaphor of “boundaries” in literary studies, the Comparative Literature Graduate Association at Louisiana State University welcomes papers from all theoretical perspectives. We believe that a multilingual approach is the only way to assess comparatively the complexity of “boundaries” in literature and literary studies. Hence, panelists will present their papers in one of these languages: Spanish, French, Portuguese, English, Italian, Chinese, or Arabic. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes in length (8-10 typed pages, double-spaced). Abstracts of approximately 250 words should be sent as a Word Document to [clgalsu@gmail.com](mailto:clgalsu@gmail.com). The deadline for abstract submissions is December 31, 2016.

- Topics could include, but are not limited to:
  - Literature and Theatrical Arts/Performance.
  - Literature and Visual Arts (photography, cinema, painting, etc.)
  - Literature and the Sound (music, opera, oral traditions, etc.)
  - Translation Studies
  - What is art? (literature and other disciplines: media studies, psychology, sciences, etc.)
  - Applied Literary Theory – boundaries between literature and its theory
  - Literature and Social Justice (e.g. education, gender studies, promoting social change, etc.)
  - Eco-criticism