This is the 8th conference in a series inaugurated in 1996. Twelve years ago, the first conference was held at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College and supported by a Ford Foundation grant. The theme was: New York in the Caribbean, the Caribbean in New York.

This year’s conference is dedicated to:

Gabriela Mistral

Gabriela Mistral (1889-1957) was a Chilean poet who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1945 “for her lyric poetry which, inspired by powerful emotions, has made her name a symbol of the idealistic aspirations of the entire Latin American world.”

http://nobelprize.org

&

Aida Cartagena Portalatín

Aida Cartagena Portalatín (1918-1994), a poet “whose poetry is defined by lyricism and a search for language” is known as “one of the most important poets from the Dominican Republic.”

From: A Bilingual Anthology of the Poetry of Aida Cartagena Portalatín: From Desolation to Compromise

November 13 & 14, 2007
November 13—Hostos Cafeteria (450 Grand Concourse)
November 14—Hostos Art Gallery (450 Grand Concourse)
Octava conferencia entre escritoras del Caribe hispano:
De diaspora y regresos

The 8th International Conference on Women Writers of the Spanish Caribbean:
On Diaspora and Homecomings

Dedicada a la memoria de / Dedicated to the memory of
Gabriela Mistral and Aida Cartagena Portalatín
November 13, 2007

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College and to the Eighth International Conference on Women Writers of the Spanish Caribbean: On Diaspora and Homecoming. Dedicated to two great poets—Gabriela Mistral of Chile and Aida Cartagena Portalatin of the Dominican Republic—this conference focuses on the important contributions of many contemporary Spanish-Caribbean and Latina writers.

If you are visiting Hostos for the first time, we'd like you to know that events such as this are not rare occurrences on our campus, due in large part to the efforts of Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Every spring and fall, scholarly conferences are held here to explore important educational issues and celebrate the literary and cultural heritage of our students and the community we serve.

In recent years, conferences at Hostos have honored the legacies of Eugenio Maria de Hostos, José Martí, Miguel Cervantes, Pablo Neruda, and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. Other events have allowed us to explore our African and Jewish cultural heritages and their enduring influence throughout the Americas. The college also sponsors annual conferences on the challenges of educating English language learners (PreK-16), and a steady stream of outstanding performances and exhibits are offered by the Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture. Please take a few moments to enjoy the current exhibit in our art gallery and the installation in the C Building atrium, “La Plena Inmortal” by Puerto Rican graphic artist Antonio Martorell.

On April 17, 2008, a Benefit Gala in celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the college’s establishment will be held at Maria del Rey in the Bronx. At the gala, the Hostos Community College Foundation will honor several individuals who have made important contributions to our society in keeping with the spirit of the educator, writer, and patriot for whom this institution is named. All proceeds from this event will benefit Hostos students by funding scholarships and special academic and cultural programs.

On behalf of the Hostos family, I thank you very much for joining us for this two-day celebration of past and present Latina writers. We look forward to seeing you again at our 2008 Gala and many forthcoming activities.

Cordialmente,

Dolores M. Fernández
President
Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends:

It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome you to our 8th International Conference on Women Writers of the Spanish Caribbean, On Diaspora and Homecomings, dedicated to the memory of Gabriela Mistral and Aida Cartagena Portalatin, two illustrious women of the Americas, poet laureates, women of letters, public intellectuals and teachers.

Sonia Rivera-Valdés and I take great pride in recognizing that this is truly a CUNY-wide initiative. This series of conferences began at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, moved on to have conferences scheduled at York College, and since 2002 has found an enduring home at Hostos Community College. In continuing to organize and sponsor the conferences, we affirm CUNY’s special mission to support and create vehicles to enhance cultural literacy among our students, faculty members and the multinational communities we serve.

Gabriela Mistral and Aida Cartagena Portalatin share many points of convergence in their lives, although I believe they never met: Poetas, maestras, feministas. Neither one of these women married, nor did they have biological children. Nevertheless, they stand in our imagination and in our literary history as role-models and as intellectual leaders who have inspired generations of readers, women and men. We take this opportunity to celebrate their poetry, rich with poignant renditions of challenges and answers to the challenges faced by their generation as human beings inhabiting our planet.

Sonia and I invite you to join us as we discuss provocative interpretations of their lives and works, and invite you to make the acquaintance of some very talented contemporary writers who will share with us insights and readings of their recently published works.

As Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, I welcome you to our conference and our college. On behalf of the Division of Academic Affairs, our faculty, staff and students, I wish you an enjoyable and rewarding two days on our campus.

Warm regards,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis
Provost and Senior VP for Academic Affairs
The International Conference on Women Writers of the Spanish Caribbean, drawing presenters from New York, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and other Caribbean islands and throughout the Americas, brings together academicians, activists, artists, authors, performers, publishers, scholars, students, and translators, among others, from CUNY, local, national, and international communities who represent Caribbean, Latino, Black, and other cultures to engage in a much-needed dialogue and collective exploration of written works published by Spanish Caribbean and Latina writers of the Caribbean and Latino countries, many of whom live and work in the United States.

The resulting conversations during the conference proceedings transcend the conventional geographical boundaries of islands, oceans, and nation-states, and are facilitated with an effort to conceptualize the Caribbean region to include its diaspora communities and the natural influences of one on the other. The repetition of the conference with new themes and dedications over the years fosters and generates open honest dialogues, which allow presenters and audience members to explore new challenges and celebrate recent accomplishments.

The first conference was hosted by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College sponsored by the CUNY Caribbean Exchange Program and supported by a Ford Foundation grant, in 1996. The genesis of the project was created by the gap found in the representation of women when the primary investigators (PIs) of the grant were implementing their project. The resolution of the problem came when the grant PIs reached out to Daisy Cocco De Filippis and Sonia Rivera-Valdès who were teaching at York College and soon thereafter became the founding mothers and conference co-directors of the International Conference on Women Writers of the Spanish Caribbean. Knowing the importance of this conference and realizing the indispensable opportunity created for Spanish Caribbean and Latina writers, the co-directors committed to the continuance of these conferences, the eighth of which is themed On Diaspora and Homecomings. Since its inauguration, the conference co-directors have published two volumes of conference proceedings, Conversación entre escritoras del Caribe hispano, published by The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College in 2000 and 2001.

The second and the third were sponsored by The CUNY Caribbean Exchange Program at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, CUNY, Tertulia de Escritoras Dominicanas en los Estados Unidos and Union de Mujeres Escritoras de las Antillas (U.M.E.D.A.S.). The fourth was sponsored by York College of The City University of New York, the CUNY Caribbean Exchange Program at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute at City College, U.M.E.D.A.S., Tertulia de Escritoras Dominicanas en los Estados Unidos and the cultural organization Latino Artists Round Table (LART) in 2001. The fifth and sixth conferences were sponsored by the CUNY Caribbean Exchange Program at Hunter College, CUNY Dominican Association/Asociacion de Estudios Dominicanos, the Tertulia de Escritoras Dominicanas en los Estados Unidos, U.M.E.D.A.S., Latino Artists Round Table, and the Hostos Community College Auxiliary Enterprises and Office of Academic Affairs in October 2002 and April 2004. The 7th in 2005 and this 8th conference in 2007 is sponsored by Latino Artists Round Table, Tertulia de Escritoras Dominicanas en los Estados Unidos, U.M.E.D.A.S., the Division of Academic Affairs, Hostos Auxiliary Enterprises, and the Serrano Scholars Program at Hostos Community College.

In the spirit of honoring women writers whose work was ground breaking or otherwise pivotal to the progress and recognition of women’s literature, this eighth conference is dedicated to Gabriela Mistral, a Chilean author who won the Nobel Prize in 1945, and Aida Cartagena Portalatin who is considered one of the most important poets in the 20th century in the Dominican Republic. Their works continue to be read and taught, and continue to inspire readers throughout the world.
Licia Fiol-Matta

Licia Fiol-Matta is an associate professor of Latin American and Puerto Rican Studies at Lehman College of The City University of New York. She received her A.B. from Princeton University and her Ph.D. from Yale University, both in Comparative Literature. Her fields of interest are Latin American Postcolonial Literature; Women’s/Gender Studies; Hispanic Caribbean, U.S. Latina/o Literary and Cultural Studies; Critical Race Studies; Queer Theory; Popular Culture; Music; American Studies. She is the author of A Queer Mother for the Nation: The State and Gabriela Mistral (University of Minnesota Press, 2002). The book garnered many reviews and author interviews for its treatment of the iconography surrounding Chile's 1945 Nobel Prize in Literature and revered saintly mother figure, Gabriela Mistral. In 2005-6 Fiol-Matta was on sabbatical leave as the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Research Award and a Scholar Incentive Award from The City University of New York for her project, "Remembering Cuba: Memory and Loss in Lydia Cabrera." Fiol-Matta is currently at work on a manuscript on Puerto Rican popular music. She is a member of the Editorial Collective of Social Text and co-editor of the series New Directions in Latino American Cultures for Palgrave/Macmillan. A Queer Mother for the Nation and its reception in Chile has been reviewed in interviews: Álvaro Matus, “No quería sacar del closet a la Mistral” [I did not want to out Mistral] in Qué Pasa, Santiago, Chile, August 29, 2003, 68-70; Larry Rohter, “‘Mother of the Nation,’ Poet and Lesbian? Gabriela Mistral of Chile Re-Examined” The New York Times, June 4, 2003; Nelly Richard, “Gabriela Mistral: una madre ‘rara’ para la Nación (una entrevista a Licia Fiol-Matta)” [Gabriela Mistral, a queer mother for the nation: interview with Licia Fiol-Matta], Revista de critica cultural 25 (November 2002) 52-55; Miguel Santelices, “Licia Fiol-Matta: No pretendo convertir a Gabriela Mistral en un ícono gay” [Licia Fiol-Matta: I’m not trying to turn Gabriela Mistral into a gay icon] in Cosas, May 17, 2002; Loreto Novoa, “Nobel provocación” [A Nobel provocation] in Mujer a Mujer (Suplemento, La Tercera), May 4, 2002; Marcelo Simonetti, “Gabriela Mistral: esa ilustre desconocida” [Gabriela Mistral, the illustrious unknown]. El Mercurio (Santiago, Chile), July 7, 2001.

Ramonita Marcano-Ogando

En la actualidad se desempeña como instructora en el programa de español de la Universidad de Pennsylvania, el cual dirigió por varios años. Es titulada de la Universidad de Rutgers, New Jersey, con doctorado en literatura latinoamericana. Su tesis se titula “La configuración del sujeto en la poesía de Aida Cartagena Portalatín”. Cursó maestría en francés en la misma institución. Sus áreas de investigación y enseñanza se enfocan en la literatura latinoamericana contemporánea, en los estudios del caribe hispánico y la poesía dominicana, así como en la pedagogía de la enseñanza. Ha participado en varias conferencias y talleres relacionados con el campo de la literatura y la pedagogía de la enseñanza. Es coautora de Lecturas literarias: Moving Towards Linguistic and Cultural Fluency through Literature y en estos momentos trabaja en dos proyectos de investigación. Uno de ellos, Aida Portalatín en Latinoamérica, es un libro que estudia la poesía de Aida en diálogo con una comunidad de poetas latinoamericanos. El segundo proyecto es una compilación de ensayos donde estudia la representación de la ciudad de Santo Domingo en el teatro, la poesía, la narrativa y el cuento durante el siglo XX. Ha dictado una variedad de cursos relacionados con la cultura y literatura latinoamericana, entre ellos: Textos y contextos de Hispanoamérica, Literatura y Cultura del Caribe Hispánico, El Cuento Hispanoamericano, El Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano Introducción al Análisis Literario, Narrativa del Siglo XX, Unidad y Diversidad del Español, Seminarios graduados en pedagogía y metodología de la enseñanza de lenguas extranjeras y cursos de español y francés como segunda lengua.
DEDICATED TO GABRIELA MISTRAL AND AIDA CARTAGENA PORTALATÍN
OCTAVA CONFERENCIA ENTRE ESCRITORAS DEL CARIBE HISPANO: DE DIÁSPORA Y REGRESOS
8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN WRITERS OF THE SPANISH CARIBBEAN: ON DIASPORA AND HOMECOMINGS

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Lasana Sekou

is a publisher and the author of 13 books of poetry, monologues, and short stories. He is the leading writer of St. Martin and is considered one of the prolific Caribbean poets of his generation. His titles, such as 37 Poems, The Salt Reaper, Nativity, and Brotherhood of the Spurs, have been required reading at Caribbean and North American universities. Sekou’s poetry and reviews have appeared in Callaloo, The Massachusetts Review, Del Caribe, De Gids, Das Gedicht, Prometeo, World Literature Today, Postcolonial Text, Caribbean Review of Books, and Boundary 2. His poems have been translated into Spanish, Dutch, German, and Chinese. Awards and honors include an IWW Visiting Fellow (Hong Kong), a James Michener Fellow (University of Miami), a knighthood (the Netherlands), recognition for literary excellence in the service of Caribbean unity (Dominican Republic), Culture Time Literary Artist of the Decade, and the Caribbean Tourism Organization Award of Excellence. At House of Nehesi Publishers he secured the publication of literary luminaries and pioneers such as George Lamming, Kamau Brathwaite, Amiri Baraka, Shake Keane and Chiqui Vicioso. A co-founder of the annual St. Martin Book Fair, Lasana M. Sekou is an advocate for the independence of St. Martin, which is a colony of France and the Netherlands.

Chiqui Vicioso

Nació en Santo Domingo el 21 de junio de 1948. Poeta, dramaturga y ensayista. Hija de Juan Antonio Vicioso Contín y María Luisa Sánchez. Licenciada en Sociología e Historia de América Latina por The City University of New York (Brooklyn College). Hizo una maestría en Diseño de Programas Educativos en la Universidad de Columbia y estudió Administración de Proyectos Culturales en la Fundación Getulio Vargas, de Río de Janeiro, Brasil. Fue Directora de Educación de Pro Familia (1981-1985), Consultora del Programa de la ONU para el Desarrollo de la Mujer (1986-1987) y Oficial Nacional de Programas con la Mujer de UNICEF. Ha sido columnista del periódico Listín Diario, colaboradora de La Noticia y dirigió la página literaria Cantidad Hechizada, de El Nuevo Diario. Al inicio de la década de los ochenta fundó el Círculo de Mujeres Poetas. En 1988 la Sociedad Dominicana de Escritores le concedió el prestigioso Caonabo de Oro y posteriormente, en 1992, la Dirección General de Promoción de la Mujer le entregó la Medalla de Oro al Mérito a la Mujer más Destacada del Año. Parte de su producción poética ha sido incluida en Sin otro profeta que su canto (Antología de la poesía femenina dominicana) y en Poemas del exilio y de otras inquietudes /Poems of exile and other concerns (Antología bilingüe de la poesía escrita por dominicanos en los Estados Unidos), ambas preparadas por Daisy Cocco De Filippis. También aparecen textos suyos en Antología histórica de la poesía dominicana del siglo XX, de Franklin Gutiérrez y en Dos siglos de literatura dominicana de Manuel Rueda. En 1997 obtuvo el Premio Nacional de Teatro con la obra Wish-ky Sour.
## Schedule

### Tuesday, November 13

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:00pm-6:00pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00pm-6:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Opening Ceremony</strong>&lt;br&gt;Title: Welcome and Greetings Panel&lt;br&gt;Presenters: Selma Botman, Executive Vice Chancellor &amp; University Provost for Academic Affairs, Sonia Rivera-Valdés, Latino Artists Round Table, Ramona Hernández, CUNY Dominican Studies Institute at City College, Hector Lopez, Hostos Senate, Angel Miranda, Student Government Organization, Evelyn Hill, Serrano Scholar&lt;br&gt;Moderator: Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Hostos Community College</td>
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<td>6:30pm-7:45pm</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Presentation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Title: <em>Eva/Sión/Es</em>, Book Presentation&lt;br&gt;Introduction/Moderator: Lasana Sekou, Author and Poet&lt;br&gt;Presenter: Chiqui Vicioso, Dominican Ambassador for Women and Children Policy&lt;br&gt;Respondent: Conrad James, University of Birmingham UK, University of California, Santa Cruz&lt;br&gt;Moderator: Weldon Williams, Hostos Community College</td>
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<td>8:00pm-9:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Caribbean Callaloo – The Hostos Bash</strong>&lt;br&gt;RSVP &amp; Dinner Ticket Required</td>
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### Wednesday, November 14

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am-9:45am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>10:00am-10:45am</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Presentation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Title: A Queer Mother for the Nation Redux: Gabriela Mistral in the Twenty-First Century&lt;br&gt;Introduction/Moderator: Liza Fiol-Matta, New Jersey City University&lt;br&gt;Presenter: Licia Fiol-Matta, Lehman College&lt;br&gt;Respondent: Marie-Lise Gazarian, St. John’s University</td>
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<td>11:00am-12:15pm</td>
<td><strong>Roundtable Presentation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Title: Historia, memoria e imaginación en la literatura de seis escritoras Latinas&lt;br&gt;Panelists: Dinapiera Di Donato, Escritora, Margarita Drago, York College, Jacqueline Herranz-Brooks, York College, Myrna Nieves, Boricua College</td>
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The talk discusses this icon's recent, clashing meanings, from the "Gabriela Mistral Controversy" of postdictatorial Chile to the dawn of Chile's 21st century, addressing diverse cultural texts ranging from planned films to recent publications of Mistral originals in scholarly forms. It ends with a brief consideration of the debate surrounding the fate of the Gabriela Mistral papers after January, 2006, upon the announcement of the death of Mistral's literary executor and heir, Doris Dana.
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am-12:15pm</td>
<td>Roundtable Presentation (continued)</td>
<td>Art Gallery</td>
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<td>Paquita Suárez-Coalla, Borough of Manhattan Community College</td>
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<td>Sonia Rivera-Valdés, Latino Artists Round Table</td>
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<td>Partiendo de un cuento o poema propio cada escritora explicará cómo construyó su texto.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15pm-1:45pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm-3:15pm</td>
<td>Roundtable Discussion</td>
<td>Art Gallery</td>
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<td>¿Hay regresos? / Is there a homecoming?</td>
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<td>Josefina Báez, Latinarte, Ay Ombe Theater</td>
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<td>Mairym Cruz-Bernal, Poeta y ensayista</td>
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<td>Carolina González, John Jay College of Criminal Justice</td>
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<td>Sonia Rivera-Valdés, Latino Artists Round Table</td>
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<td>Chiqui Vicioso, Dominican Ambassador for Women and Children Policy</td>
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<td>Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Hostos Community College</td>
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<td>This roundtable will involve audience participation. The moderator will ask one question at a time. Roundtable invitees will be given the opportunity to comment, if they wish. Once all who wish to comment have responded, members of the audience will be asked to comment/respond and participate. When discussion for a question has been exhausted, the moderator will move to the next one, and so forth for the duration of the time allotted for this activity.</td>
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<td>4:00pm-4:45pm</td>
<td>Interactive Performance and Lecture</td>
<td>Art Gallery</td>
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<td>An Altar of Words and Petals / Un altar de palabras y pélabos</td>
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<td>Josefina Báez, Latinarte / Ay Ombe Theater</td>
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<td>Ms. Josefina Báez will facilitate this session which will include readings, audience participation, and performances by the College Now participants in the Playwriting/Performance (Writing from the Self) workshop.</td>
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<td>5:30pm-6:45pm</td>
<td>Keynote Presentation</td>
<td>Art Gallery</td>
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<td>Memoria, historia y geografía en la obra de Aida Cartagena Portalatín:</td>
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<td>Claves para recobrar los fragmentos del sujeto</td>
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<td>Chiqui Vicioso, Dominican Ambassador for Women and Children Policy</td>
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<td>Ramonita Marcano-Ogando, University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Carolina González, John Jay College of Criminal Justice</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aida Cartagena Portalatín ha sido sin dudas una de las escritoras más importantes e influyentes en las letras dominicanas hasta el momento. Su obra, por lo general, se ha leído desde una perspectiva binaria, escindida entre la escritura intimista y la política. En realidad, aunque es posible notar estas dos tendencias al trazar la trayectoria literaria de la autora, un estudio minucioso de su obra permite observar una mayor complejidad en la red de conexiones entre el pasado, la memoria histórica y el espacio geográfico. Con el propósito de explorar tales conexiones, examinaré cómo Portalatín crea una cartografía de la dominicanidad muy propia, y cómo a través de ésta logra dialogar con los sujetos que conforman la nación representada en sus textos.</td>
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SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
(450 GRAND CONCOURSE)

7:00pm-8:15pm  | Roundtable Presentation | Art Gallery
Title: Las escritoras caribeñas y las rutas a la paz (interior y planetaria) | Caribbean Women Writers and Peace (Inner Peace and World Peace)
Panelists: Marithelma Costa, Hunter College, Graduate Center | Mairym Cruz-Bernal, Poeta y ensayista
| Mabel Cuesta, Baruch/Hunter Colleges, Instituto Cervantes de Nueva York | Sonia Rivera-Valdés, Latino Artists Round Table
| Chiqui Vicioso, Dominican Ambassador for Women and Children Policy | Moderator: Myrna Nieves, Boricua College

Se puede abordar desde la necesidad de expresar el dolor y el coraje, hasta encontrar el centro propio o experimentar la pasión y/o la belleza, sin descartar experiencias sociales específicas.
The theme may be approached as an expression of pain and rage, in search of its own center or as an experience of passion and/or beauty, without discarding specific social experiences.

International Conference on Women Writers of the Spanish Caribbean
Publication Information


RECORDING POLICY

All material presented during this conference are the property of the individual presenting. All recordings of this conference are the property of the Office of Academic Affairs at Hostos Community College and Latino Artists Round Table (LART). Recording, videotaping or otherwise copying the proceedings of this conference is not permitted without express consent of the presenters, Office of Academic Affairs and LART. The proceedings will be recorded and may be viewed by individuals who wish to do so by submitting a request in writing to Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Hostos Community College or Sonia Rivera-Valdés, York College.
ABOUT GABRIELA MISTRAL

GABRIELA MISTRAL (LUCILA GODOY ALCAYAGA) (1889-1957)
By: Virginia Sánchez Korrol

The first Latin American woman ever to win the Nobel Prize in Literature (1945) and Chile's Premio Nacional in poetry (1914), Lucila Godoy Alcayaga was born in 1889 in Chile's remote northern Andean village of Vicuna to a rural schoolteacher, Petronila Alcayaga, and an itinerant poet, Jerónimo Godoy Alcayaga Villanueva. Of mixed Indian, Jewish, and Basque ancestry, she and her sister Emelina grew up in a single-parent household in Montegrande, because her father abandoned the family when Lucila was only three years old. From nine to twelve years of age Lucila attended the local public school, but she completed her education at home under the guidance of her mother and sister, who was also a teacher. Her love of poetry and her earliest writings stem from this early period of her life. Influenced by the work of French poet Frederic Mistral and the Italian writer Gabriele d'Annunzio, Lucila adopted the pseudonym Gabriela Mistral.

In 1905 Mistral became a teachers' aide in La Cantera and was able to support her mother on her salary. A troubling, tragic love affair (the young man committed suicide) motivated Mistral to write Sonetas de la muerte (Sonnets of Death), and thus began an impressive creative writing career aroused by the personal events of her life. Gabriela Mistral became a public figure in literary and intellectual circles when her poems soon appeared in such Venezuelan newspapers as La Voz de Elqui and Diario Radical de Coquimbo. Although her laurels rested on the written word, Mistral was also an innovative educational reformer, feminist, administrator, ambassador, and university professor.

Mistral earned a diploma in education from the Santiago Normal School in 1912 that enabled her to teach high school. Six years later, in 1918, Mistral was appointed director of a prestigious rural school for girls in Punta Arenas, the inspirational site for a collection of poems, Patagonian Landscapes. Until 1923, when she was recognized as "Teacher of the Nation" by the Chilean government, Mistral traveled to foreign countries, including Europe and the United States, studying pedagogical methods and techniques. During this period major innovations in education as related to nation building took place throughout the Americas. Vibrant literary movements included the emergence of distinguished figures like her compatriot and future Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda, and nationalistic social reform issues permeated academic intellectual circles. Invited by the Mexican minister of education, José Vasconcelos, to develop programs for the poor, Mistral moved to Mexico in 1922, where she established mobile libraries and educational programs to increase access to literature in rural regions. She continued to write and publish her own work, expressing views on nature, religion, childhood, birth and motherhood, death, and women's concerns. A particular focus on cradle songs and poems about maternity reflect Mistral's preoccupation about having children. Although she never married, she adopted a child who later died.

In 1922 Mistral's collection of poems Desolación (Desolation) appeared in print, followed by the childhood-inspired Ternura (Tenderness) in 1925, Questions in 1930, and Tala, poems on children and maternity, in 1938. She also wrote fables and children's poems and edited Readings for Women, a collection of prose and poetry. Intolerance for injustice also marked her writing, as well as a deep sense of religiosity. In later life Mistral joined a lay order of Franciscans, which inspired her to create poems like "Motivos de San Francisco" and "Elogios de las cosas de la tierra."

Mistral lived abroad for almost thirty years, settling finally in the United States, and as an esteemed visiting professor of Spanish literature, taught classes at the University of Puerto Rico and Middlebury, Vassar, and Barnard colleges. Internationally acclaimed, Mistral became a cultural emissary for her country of origin,
ABOUT GABRIELA MISTRAL (LUCILA GODOY ALCAYAGA) (1889-1957)

formally appointed by the Chilean government as ambassador-at-large for Latin American culture. She worked with the League of Nations, the United Nations, and various foreign consulates, including those of Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and the United States. Among the most prominent people of the day to cross her path were writers, statesmen, entertainers, and international figures like Marie Curie, Henri Bergson, Pablo Neruda, and the Austrian writer Stefan Zweig.

Mistral held honorary degrees from Guatemala and Florence and honorific membership in numerous cultural societies in Chile and the United States. Despite the many years she lived away from Chile, Mistral never forgot her indigenous origins. The words uttered in her acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize in 1945 speak volumes about her self-perception and role as an international figure: "At this moment, by an undeserved stroke of fortune, I am the direct voice of the poets of my race and the indirect voice for the noble Spanish and Portuguese tongues." Thus she crafted a heritage that emanated from the "noble tongues" of the Iberian Peninsula to the diversity of the Americas.

Mistral retired and spent the last years of her life in poor health living in New York. She continued to write but on January 10, 1957, lost her battle against cancer. Her impact on Latin American and American literature has been monumental, and her work continues to inspire. Langston Hughes translated some of Mistral's verses before she died, and the Gabriela Mistral Prize was created in 1979. Administered by the Organization of American States, the prize was given in 2001 to the British rock star Sting for his tribute to the mothers of the disappeared under the Pinochet regime.


Entry From
ABOUT AIDA CARTAGENA PORTALATÍN

Aida Cartagena Portalatín (1918-94)
By: Daisy Cocco De Filippis

One of the most important woman poets from the Dominican Republic, Cartagena Portalatín began her literary career as a member of the group of poets in the literary movement known as La Poesía Sorprendida, which flourished in the 1940s. Her poetry is defined by lyricism and a search for language. Her essays are characterized by her identification with the Dominican Republic's African heritage.

Cartagena Portalatín was born in Moca on June 18, 1918. After attending elementary and secondary schools in Santo Domingo, she enrolled at the Universidad de Santo Domingo, where she earned a doctorate in humanities. She then pursued postgraduate work on museum studies and plastic arts at the University of Louvre, in Paris. She directed the publications Brigadas Dominicanas and the journal of the School of Humanities at Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo. She also edited the publication Colección Baluarte, which specialized in publishing works of literatura comprometida, socially engaged literature. In 1965, she worked for UNESCO. In 1977, she was a judge in the prestigious Casa de las Américas literary contest, held in Havana, Cuba.

Establishing herself as a poet in the Poesía Sorprendida movement—the only woman in a group of men—she traveled throughout Europe, Africa, and Asia. Her travels inspired much of her writings and informed the academic texts she wrote in the field of the history of art. In 1955, she wrote her most famous poem "Una mujer está sola." The poem explores the themes of loneliness and rebellion while attempting to place women within their rightful place in society; these themes characterize most of her creative productivity.


She passed away on June 3, 1994, in the Dominican Republic.

Further Reading

Entry From:
SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 24, 2008

The 2nd International & Interdisciplinary Conference on Dominican Studies
Recovering an Earlier Dominican Presence (Prior to 1970)
www.hostos.cuny.edu/oaa/dominican-conf.htm

Spearheaded by The Dominican Studies Association & The Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College of The City University of New York

Special thanks are extended to the campus offices, programs, and leaders at Hostos campus who helped ensure the success of this conference including: Adult and Continuing Education, Center for Arts and Culture, Conference Center/Distance Learning, Facilities and Grounds Crews, Instructional Technology, MBJ Dining Services, Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Administration and Finance, Office of the Dean for Special Programs, Public Safety, Serrano Scholars Program.
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

JOSEFINA BÁEZ, (La Romana, Dominican Republic/New York), is an actress, writer, and director. Mrs. Báez is the founder and director of Latinarte / Ay Ombe Theater troupe (since 1986). Her work is multidisciplinary in context and intercultur in scope. Her work is highly subjective. She has participated in many international theatre festivals and workshops in Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Her written work has been published in Forward Motion Magazine (NYC), Brujula/Compass (Latin American Writers Institute (NYC), Ventana Abierta (University of California), Tertuiando/Hanging Out (Anthology of Dominican women writers in New York), Vetas (Dominican Republic), Caribbean Connections: Moving North (NECA/Washington, Ojo Paralelo (NYC), Dominicanish (NYC), Beacon Press 2001 Anthology, among others. Since 1981, Mrs. Báez has been teaching creative writing and theatre in public schools and cultural centers in New York City, in conjunction with Teachers & Writers, Arts Connections and Creative Art Laboratory/Teachers College-Columbia University (CAL).

SELMA BOTMAN, Ph.D., is the Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost for Academic Affairs at The City University of New York. As Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at The City University of New York, Dr. Botman leads the development, planning and implementation of University policies relevant to all aspects of its academic programs, teaching and learning, instructional technology, research, student development, and enrollment management. She supervises the provosts for seventeen colleges, a Graduate School, a Law School, and a School of Journalism. Dr. Botman develops and implements a variety of special University-wide programs, such as the CUNY Honors College, the Teacher Academy, the Black Male Initiative, the cluster hire initiative in targeted academic disciplines, the new Online Baccalaureate for degree completers, and she works closely with the School of Professional Studies. A specialist in modern Middle Eastern politics, Dr. Botman is the author of three books and many scholarly articles. She has received nine research and teaching fellowships including two National Endowment for the Humanities awards, two Hewlett-Mellon grants, and a Social Science Research Council grant. Dr. Botman was an Affiliate in Research at Harvard University’s Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and continues to examine contemporary social and political movements in Egypt.

SARAH BRENNAN earned an M.S. in Student Personnel Administration from the State University of New York College at Buffalo, and worked in student affairs before joining Hostos Community College in 2004 as the coordinator of the newly established Center for Teaching and Learning, which has since been named for Professor Magda Vasillov. Currently Ms. Brennan serves as the Assistant Director of Academic Planning and Program Development, coordinating the Center for Teaching and Learning and developing programs and initiatives spearheaded by the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

DAISY COCCO DE FILIPPIS, Ph.D., a native of the Dominican Republic, has been living in New York City for the past four decades. A literary scholar, editor, translator and cultural activist, she is Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Eugenio María de Hostos Community College. She has been a pioneer in Dominican Studies and in the study of women authors of the Spanish Caribbean. She has lectured widely and has an extensive bibliography which includes seminal anthologies on the work of Dominican women authors and on the work of Dominicans writing in the United States. Her most recent publications include: Documents of Dissidence, Selected Writings by Dominican Women (New York: A Publication of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, 2000), Conversación entre escritoras del Caribe hispano [with Sonia Rivera-Valdés] (New York: Centro for Puerto Rican Studies, 2000, 2003) and Madres, maestras y militantes dominicanas [fundadoras] (Santo Domingo: Búho, 2001). She is a founding member and a member of the Board of Directors of La Unión de Mujeres Escritoras de las Antillas and La tertulia de escritoras dominicanas en los Estados Unidos. Since 1997, she has been the President of the Dominican Studies Association/Asociación de Estudios Dominicanos. She completed an anthology of early Dominican writings in the United States [with Franklin Gutiérrez, 2002]. Most recently, Hija de Camila / Camila’s Line, an edition of the Feminist writings by Camila Henríquez Ureña was published by the Editioria Nacional in Santo Domingo (2007).


ABOUT THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS


DINAPIERA DI DONATO, Venezolana, reside en New York donde escribe una tesis doctoral sobre los personajes escritoras y enseña español y francés. Ha obtenido reconocimientos literarios en su país de origen, entre otros el Premio de Narrativa de la X Bienal Internacional “José Antonio Ramos Sucre”, en 1990, y mención de honor como la del concurso de Cuentos del diario El Nacional de Caracas en el año 2000. Ha publicado Noche con nieve y amantes (Fundarte, Venezuela 1991); La sonrisa de Bernardo Atxaga (Predios, Venezuela 1995); Desventuras del ocio: Libro de Rachid, avenida Paul Doumer (Cumáñ, Venezuela 1996). Sus narraciones y poemas han sido incluidos en diversas antologías y estudios: III Antologías de Poesía y Narrativa, (Asociación de Escritores de Mérida, Venezuela, 2007); Aquí me tocó escribir (Trabe, España 2006); Antología Narrativa Cumanesa 1950-2004 (Ovación, Venezuela 20005); El hilo de la voz (Fundación Polar/ Angria, Venezuela 2003); Timor: Do Poder das Armas à Força do Amor (Universitária, Portugal 2002); Las Voces de la Hidra: La poesía venezolana de los años 90 (CONAC/ Mucuglifo/ UCAB, Venezuela 2002); Primer Concurso Literario Dia del Profesor Universitario (Apudons, Venezuela 1998); Colinas y colindante, (Predios, Venezuela 1993). Quatern Deni (Nadjá, Venezuela 1991).

MARGARITA DRAGO es argentina, radicada en Estados Unidos desde que salió de la cárcel en 1980. Como ex-prisionera política ha representado a su país en congresos realizados en los Estados Unidos, México, Perú, y Francia. Ha publicado en periódicos y revistas literarias, educativas y de derechos humanos. Es profesora de lengua española, literatura y educación bilingüe en York College, de La Universidad de la Ciudad de Nueva York. Actualmente es la vice-presidenta de Latino Artists Round Table, una organización cultural sin fines de lucro fundada en 1999, un proyecto de resistencia a la hegemonía del mercado corporativo de la cultura. Ha participado en la organización de congresos, conferencias, tertulias literarias de LART y, también, ha representado a esta organización en lecturas, presentaciones y charlas en centros culturales y universidades. Es autora de Fragmentos de la memoria. Recuerdos de una experiencia carcelaria (1975-1980), y de Sor María de Jesús Tomelín (1579-1637), concepcionista poblana: la construcción fallida de una santa (su tesis doctoral), obra inédita de la que se han publicado capítulos.

LIZA FIOL MATTA is Dean of the William J. Maxwell College of Arts and Sciences and professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at New Jersey City University. She previously was a faculty member in the English departments at both Hostos Community College and LaGuardia Community College of The City University of New York. Her book, Women of Color and the Multicultural Curriculum: Transforming the College Classroom (Feminist Press, 1994), received the Gustavus Myers Center award as Outstanding Book on the Subject of Human Rights in North America. A second book, Telling to Live: Latina Feminist Testimonios (Duke, 2001), coauthored with the members of the Latina Feminist Group, also received a Gustavus Myers Center Human Rights and Bigotry award. Her essays include “Teaching in Puerto Rican Tongues: A Report from the Space In-Between,” “Writing the Self in a Changing World.” and “De ‘yerbas malas,’ la diáspora boricua y la isla caribeña.” Her poetry has appeared in several journals in Puerto Rico and the U.S., including The Peace Review and Callaloo, and her essay, “Beyond Survival: A Politics/Poetics of Puerto Rican Consciousness,” was reprinted in Word: On Being a [Woman] Writer (Feminist Press, 2004).

MARIE LISE GAZARIAN-GAUTIER was born in Paris, but she has lived in New York for the most part of her life. She holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University, and has had the privilege of studying under some of the greatest figures of the Hispanic world, such as Francisco García Lorca, Ángel del Río, Amelia Agostini de del Río, Germán Arciniegas, Luis Alberto Sánchez and Andrés Iduarte. Since 1961, she is a Professor of Spanish and Latin American Literature at St. John’s University, Jamaica, New York, one of the largest Catholic Universities in the United States, where she serves in the capacity of Coordinator of the Graduate Program in Spanish as well as Coordinator of the Undergraduate Spanish Division. Dr. Gazarian has interviewed over two hundred literary Hispanic figures on CBS and ABC, as host of two series co-produced by St. John’s Television Center: “Contemporary Hispanic Fiction” and “The Hispanic Writers of Greater New York.” These series received several awards. Among the writers she invited and interviewed for the above series as well as for literary magazines and books are the following: Jorge Enrique Adoum, Marjorie Agosín, Rafael Alberti, Isabel Allende, Fernando Arrabal, Jorge Eduardo Benavides, Juan Benet, Antonio Buero Vallejo,
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Guillermo Cabrera Infante, José Luis Castillo-Puche, Camilo José Cela, Carmen Conde, Arturo Corcuera, Miguel Delibes, José Donoso, Lidia Falcón, Carlos Fuentes, Isaac Goldberg, Juan Goytisolo, Carmen Laforet, Carmen Martín Gaite, Ana María Matute, Rosa Montero, Antonio Muñoz Molina, Carlos Onetti, Justo Jorge Padrón, Elena Poniatowska, Fernando Rielo, Ernesto Sábato, José Luis Sampedro, Gonzalo Torrente Ballester, Francisco Umbral and Mario Vargas Llosa.

CAROLINA GONZÁLEZ is a lecturer in the Department of Puerto Rican and Latin American Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY), where she teaches classes on Latino literature in the U.S., race and ethnicity and the Latino experience in the United States. Born in New York City and raised in the Dominican Republic, Ms. Gonzalez was among the first class of women accepted into Columbia University's Columbia College, where she received a bachelor of arts degree. She also received a masters degree in Comparative Literature from the University of California at Berkeley. She is currently completing her doctoral dissertation on race and nationalism in Trujillo-era poetry and literature. She has also worked for the past two decades as a journalist, covering education, immigration, politics, music and Latino culture for alternative newspapers and magazines. She was an editorial writer at the New York Daily News, where she was the second Hispanic named to the editorial board in the paper’s 80-year history, and is a frequent contributor to “Viva NY,” a Latino-themed section in the NY Daily News, as well as a frequent commentator on music on the public radio station WNYC. The book she co-authored with Seth Kugel, Nueva York: the Complete Guide to Latino Life in the Five Boroughs, was published in 2006 by St. Martin's Press.

RAMONA HERNÁNDEZ, Ph.D., is currently the Director of the CUNY-Dominican Studies Institute and a Professor of Sociology at The City College of New York. Dr. Hernández is the author of several seminal works including The Mobility of Workers Under Advanced Capitalism: Dominican Migration to the United States (Columbia University Press, 2002), which received the title of Outstanding Academic Title from Choice in 2003. Her research and publication interests include the socioeconomic conditions of Dominicans in the diaspora, particularly in the United States and the restructuring of the world economy and its effects on the working poor. A native of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Ramona Hernández attended Lehman College until 1979, obtaining a B.A. with honors in Latin American History, with a minor in Puerto Rican Studies. She then pursued graduate work at New York University, earning an M.A. in 1982 in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, an M.Phil. in 1995 and a Ph.D. in 1997, both in the Department of Sociology at the Graduate School of The City University of New York.

JACQUELINE HERRANZ BROOKS, poeta y narradora cubana, nació en La Habana en 1968. Es autora de la obra Yo fui a la guerra (Festival Elsinor, 1994), del poemario Liquid Days (Tribalsong, Argentina, 1997) y del libro de relatos Escenas para turistas (Editorial Campana, New York, 2003). Actualmente vive y estudia en Nueva York y es profesora de español en York College, CUNY.

CONRAD JAMES is a Jamaican national, and holds a Ph.D. in Latin American literature from Cambridge University. He is an associate professor at the University of Birmingham UK where teaches courses in Spanish Caribbean literature, women's writing and Latin American cinema. Dr. James has published widely on Afro-Cuban authors such as Nancy Morejón, Excilia Saldana and Manuel Granados and is now conducting extensive research on 20th century Dominican literature. He is a visiting professor of literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

HECTOR LOPEZ currently chairs the Business Department and College Senate. He is an associate professor and has been with Hostos Community College since 1986, starting his career in academia as an adjunct instructor teaching business and accounting courses. He received his M.B.A. - Management and his M.S. - Higher Education Administration from Baruch College, CUNY. He holds a doctor of Business Administration from the University of Sarasota, Florida. In 2004, he received the Educator-of-the-Year Award from the Eastern Business Education Association (EBEA), and served as its President from 2005-2007. He recently published, "Rethinking Online and Distance Education in Business Education – Is it Worth it?" in Texas Business and Technology Educators Association (TBTEA) Journal (2007). He worked for 22 years with Verizon Corporation and has been actively involved in business education since 1978 at the post-secondary level. He is a member of the International Society of Business Educators (ISBE) and Delta Pi Epsilon – Graduate Honorary Business Educators Society. He is very active in academic, cultural and social activities within and outside the Hostos community, and represents Hostos Community College at the CUNY Council of Faculty Governance Leaders – University Faculty Senate.

DEDICATED TO GABRIELA MISTRAL AND AIDA CARTAGENA PORTALATÍN
OCTAVA CONFERENCIA ENTRE ESCRITORAS DEL CARIBE HISPANO: DE DIÁSPORA Y REGRESOS
8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN WRITERS OF THE SPANISH CARIBBEAN: ON DIASPORA AND HOMECOMINGS

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

AMY J. RAMSON has been a full-time assistant professor in the Public Administration Unit at Hostos Community College since 1990, where she teaches courses in paralegal studies, criminal justice, and administration. Her background is as an attorney since 1983 and she has worked in large law firms in Geneva, Switzerland, and at a non-profit legal services organization in international and immigration law. She currently practices in the immigration area on a part-time basis. Her undergraduate major was Spanish literature and Latin American Studies.

PAQUITA SUÁREZ-COALLA es escritora y profesora de español en BMCC (City University of New York). Ha sido una de las fundadoras de LART (Latino Artists Round Table), un grupo cultural que organiza lecturas y conferencias de escritores hispanos de diferentes partes de América Latina, Estados Unidos y España. Ha publicado un libro de cuentos en asturiano Pa nun escaeceme (Oviedo: Trabe, 2003) traducido al español Para que no se me olvide (Nueva York: Campana, 2007) y al inglés, So I Won’t Forget (New York: Campana, 2007); La mio vida ye una novela (Oviedo: Trabe, 2001) un libro de testimonios que refleja la vida de las mujeres del campo de Asturias nacidas a principios del siglo pasado y es también editora y colaboradora de la antología Aquí me tocó escribir. Antología de escritores latinos de Nueva York (Oviedo: Trabe 2006). Como crítica literaria ha publicado en 1994, en México, La literatura fantástica en la obra de Adolfo Bioy Casares. Paquita Suárez-Coalla escribe en español y en asturiano.


WELDON C. WILLIAMS III earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1980. Immediately thereafter, Prof. Williams headed to Cambridge to study law at The Harvard Law School. Upon receiving his juris doctor from Harvard and passing the bar exam in 1983, Prof. Williams began practicing law in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania for several years. As an attorney, he is best known for his breakthrough investigation and exposure of childhood lead poisoning in Philadelphia and his advocacy on behalf of hundreds of poisoned African American and Hispanic children. Eventually, the tragic depths of this experience and exhaustion of legal remedies triggered a quest for higher law and consciousness. Inspired by the theory of Afrocentricity, Professor Williams decided to pursue graduate studies at Temple University. Over several years he immersed himself in the deep structure of African culture, investigated the multifarious nature of racism, and experimented with solutions. While a graduate student, he founded the Clear Word Institute, an organization devoted to the study of classical African civilization. In May 2002, he received his Ph.D. in African American Studies. Dr. Williams continued the Clear Word Lecture Series until September 2006 when he was appointed to the faculty of Hostos Community College as assistant professor of Africana Studies.
HOW CAN ONE MOURN THE DEATH OF ROSE

“How can one mourn the death of a rose,
if sunrise has unfolded the earth
and in the grass trembling near the rose trees
dawn has turned daylight into droplets of water.

Only as seen from the earth
does the starlight shine golden.
And to the bitter earth
the rose-colored rains return.

To feel as the moss clinging to the stones;
a reproach is heard in the traveling wind.

Man has not mourned
because men have fallen.
How can one mourn the death of a rose?

From: *Bilingual Anthology of the Poetry of Aida Cartagena Portalatín: Del Desconsuelo al compromiso* (1988)
Tr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis

COMO LLORAR LA MUERTE DE UNA ROSA

By Aida Cartagena Portalatín

“De todos los hombres que están vivos, quien sabe algo?”
-Eclesiastes

COMO llorar la muerte de una rosa,
si los amaneceres han desdoblado el Mundo,
y en la hierba que temblaba cerca de los rosales
se han quedado las albas vueltas gotas de agua?

Sólo desde la tierra
han brillado en el cielo las estrellas.
A la tierra amarga vuelva
la lluvia de color de los rosales.

Sentir como los musgos de asen a las piedras;
Hay un rencor en la brisa viajera.

Hombres no han llorado
porque caen los hombres.
¿Cómo llorar la muerte de una rosa?

From: *Bilingual Anthology of the Poetry of Aida Cartagena Portalatín: Del Desconsuelo al compromiso* (1988)

BREAD

By Gabriela Mistral

Vice of habit. Childhood’s wonder,
the magical feeling of materials and elements;
flour, salt, oil, water, fire. Moments of pure
vision, pure hearing, pure touch.
Life’s consciousness in a moment.
All memories swirl around bread.
It carries with it a very potent
sensation of life, though I don’t know by what
interior approximation, an equally powerful
thought of death. The thought of life becomes
banal from the moment it does not mix with the
thought of death. The pure essentials are
superficial grandees or little pagans. The pagan
takes care of both things.

From: *Gabriela Mistral: A Reader* (1993)

PAN

By Gabriela Mistral

Dejaron un pan en la mesa,
mitad quemado, mitad blanco,
pellizcado encima y abierto
en unos migajones de ampo.
Me parece nuevo o como no visto,
y otra cosa que él no me ha alimentado,
pero volteando su miga, sonámbula,
tacto y olor se me olvidaron.
Huele a mi madre cuando dio su leche,
huele a tres valles por donde he pasado:
a Aconcagua, a Pátzcuaro, a Elqui,
y a mis entrañas cuando yo canto.
Otros olores no hay en la estancia
y por eso él así me ha llamado;
y no hay nadie tampoco en la casa
sino este pan abierto en un Plato,
que con su cuerpo me reconoce
y con el mío yo reconozco.
Se ha comido en todos los climas
el mismo pan en cien hermanos:
pan de Coquimbo, pan de Oaxaca,
pan de Santa Ana y de Santiago.
En mis infancias yo le sabía
formar de sol, de pez o de halo,
y sabía mi mano su miga
y el calor de pichón emplumado...

Después le olvidé, hasta este día
en que los dos nos encontramos,
yo con mi cuerpo de Sara vieja
y él con el suyo de cinco años.
Amigos muertos con que comíalo
en otros valles, sientan el vaho
de un pan en septiembre molido
y en agosto en Castilla segado.

From: *Gabriela Mistral: A Reader* (1993)