

UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies  
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Dante in the Americas, April 7-9, 2011



UCLA CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE STUDIES  
APRIL 7-9, 2011

# DANTE IN THE AMERICAS

## DANTE IN THE AMERICAS

A Conference at the University of California Los Angeles  
Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

The literary appropriation of Dante over the last century has been enormous. His influence has been front and center in all major modern literary traditions—from T. S. Eliot to William Butler Yeats, from Albert Camus to Jean-Paul Sartre, from Jorge Luis Borges to Derek Walcott, from Giorgio Bassani to Giuseppe Ungaretti. Why such fascination? What are the textual characteristics of Dante's *Commedia* that make it an ideal vehicle for literary appropriation, thereby allowing it to enjoy a sustained cultural afterlife? What, moreover, are the more accidental factors (e.g., taste, world view, political agenda, religious, and mystical convictions) which account for the popularity of Dante—after 300 years of neglect during which the Florentine poet was relegated to the shadows of Petrarch and his works—among artists, novelists, poets, playwrights, and cinematographers? This symposium, co-organized by Professor Massimo Ciavolella (Italian, UCLA), Professor Efraín Kristal (Comparative Literature, UCLA), and Heather Sottong (Italian, UCLA), considers these questions, concentrating on Dante's influence in North America and especially in Latin America.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011 UCLA, ROYCE HALL 314

- 4:00 Coffee and refreshments
- 4:30 Screening of Dante's *Inferno*, a film by Sandow Birk
- 6:00 Q & A with **Sandow Birk**, chaired by Massimo Ciavolella (UCLA)
- 6:30 Reception

### FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2011 UCLA, ROYCE HALL 314

- 9:30 Coffee and pastries
- 10:00 Welcoming Remarks  
**Brian Copenhaver**, Director, Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies (UCLA)  
**Massimo Ciavolella**, Symposium Co-organizer (UCLA)
- 10:15 SESSION I — Chair: Andrew Hiltzik (UCLA)
- "Mapping Dante's Studies in the Americas During the 21st Century"  
**Rossella Pescatori** (El Camino College)
- "H.W. Longfellow, Dante, and the Italians: Considerations on the First Fortune of Dante's *Divine Comedy*"  
**Marco Veglia** (University of Bologna)
- "American Francesca: The Tour of a Romantic Myth from Rimini to New York City, 1816-1984"  
**Ferruccio Farina** (University of Urbino)
- 12:30 Lunch Break

- 1:45 SESSION II — Chair: Nancy Silva (UCLA)  
English translations are available for the first two papers.

"Irradiazioni di Dante nella letteratura ispanoamericana"  
**Raffaele Pinto** (University of Barcelona)

"Dos Visiones Mexicanas del *Inferno*: Pedro Páramo de Juan Rulfo y *La Gruta del Toscano* de Ignacio Padilla"  
**Dulce María de Zúñiga** (University of Guadalajara)

- 3:15 Coffee Break

- 3:30 "The Modern Poetics and Poetry: Dante and Octavio Paz"  
**Rosend Arqués** (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

"Purgatorio in Three Latin American Writers: Jorge Luis Borges, Jorge Wiese, and Tomás Eloy Martínez"  
**Efraín Kristal** (UCLA)

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011 UCLA, ROYCE HALL 314

- 9:30 Coffee and pastries

- 10:00 SESSION III — Chair: Brittany Asaro (UCLA)

"Dante's Influence on the Brazilian Novelist Machado de Assis"  
**Carlos Quicoli** (UCLA)

"Dante in Peruvian Narrative: *El hablador* by Mario Vargas Llosa and *El corrido de Dante* by Eduardo González Viaña"  
**Heather Sottong** (UCLA)

"Dante's Journey as Modern Utopia: The Extraordinary Story of Palacio Barolo in Buenos Aires and its Ethnophilological Suggestions"  
**Francesco Benozzo** (University of Bologna)

- 12:15 Closing Remarks

#### Registration

Advance registration is not required. No admission fee.  
Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### Parking

Please use the Self Service Pay Stations in UCLA Lots 2, 3 and 5.  
More parking information and maps are available online at  
<http://map.ais.ucla.edu/go/portal/1002187>

#### Need More Information?

Contact the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies  
[cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu) / 310-825-1880.

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