Kaleidoscope 2015
Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Student Conference
University of Wisconsin – Madison

March 12 – 14, 2015

All the Senses of the Word:
The Dynamics of Denotation and Description

Kaleidoscope

Keynote Speakers

Frederick de Armas	Javier Gutiérrez-Rexach	Leopoldo Bernucci
University of Chicago	The Ohio State University	University of California at Davis

Call for Papers

At the heart of formal semantics lies the idea of compositionality. That is, "the meaning of a whole is a function of the meaning of its parts and their mode of syntactic combination". This raises the question, how does one determine the meaning of the individual parts of a statement? Denotation is the mechanism of language that allows us to link a linguistic expression to the part of reality it represents. However, it is well known that the literal meaning is only one of many that a sentence can fully convey. During this conference we will explore the transition from literal denotative meaning to the world of literary and imaginary nuances.

As visual, aural and verbal media interact with literature, the written word becomes a tool to either enhance or corrupt images, sounds or experiences. Descriptive devices such as *ekphrasis* allow for the sister arts to compete and collaborate while intermediality, or multimedia, allows for the communication and representation of multiple aesthetics and sensory modalities at once. In this interaction, the lines between the literal and the connotative meanings of a word are further blurred or enriched. Translating the visual and linguistic complexities of the Iberian Peninsula, Latin America and the Caribbean through the written word has been a historically controversial process— what are the sounds, images and textures that literature tries to relate with words, and what are the political or artistic motivations behind apprehending such imagery in literature? This year's conference aims to explore the theory and practice of denotation and description as linguistic and literary tools that deal with the representation, interpretation and translation of diverse cultural realities and perspectives.

We invite those interested from any field to submit proposals concerning issues of denotation and description. We encourage proposals relevant to the theme of the conference that include, but are not limited to:

Keywords:

- Denotative and Connotative Meaning
- Identity/Originality
- Mimesis
- Pragmatics
- Semantics
- Visual Cultures
- Ekphrasis
- Imitation and Authenticity
- Morphology
- Psychology
- Intermediality
- Syntax
- Gender/Women's Studies
- Media Arts
- Performance/Theater
- Religious Studies
- Translation

We welcome both individual and panel presentations in Spanish, Portuguese or English that study the theory and practice of denotation and description from the medieval period to the contemporary moment. Presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes.

Please send abstracts (250-300 words) along with three keywords and a brief biography that includes institutions/organizational affiliation (if applicable) as well as contact information to kaleidoscope.wisc@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is December 12, 2014.

Zona de Carga/Loading Zone Literary Journal

In collaboration with Kaleidoscope, the 2015 issue of Zona de Carga/Loading Zone will be dedicated to explore denotation and description through fiction, poetic prose, and poetry in English, Spanish, Portuguese or any combination of these languages. For more information about the journal and its submission guidelines, visit **zonadecarga.com**.