Spanish & Portuguese
University of Wisconsin – Madison

WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Graduate Students of the Department of Spanish & Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin-Madison present the 20th Annual Kaleidoscope Conference:

Collective Futures

Conference date: March 6-7th, 2026
Conference format: In-person
Conference language: participants can choose to present in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.
Abstract Submission Deadline: January 10th, 2026
Presentation Submission Deadline: January 20th, 2026

The 2026 Kaleidoscope 20th Annual Graduate Student Conference invites discussion and exploration of visions of the future shaped by collaboration, community, and resistance. Moving beyond individualistic and utopian frameworks, we invite interdisciplinary reflections on how collectivity—across borders, identities, and movements—imagines, negotiates, and builds futures. How do narrative forms and linguistic practices shape collective identities and alternative futurities? How do authors and communities write together toward liberation, survival, and change? Kaleidoscope aspires to foster meaningful collaboration between attendees, scholars, and speakers. We hope to expand horizons through the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experiences discussed at the event. Together, we aim for a two-fold outcome:

1) furthering innovative research
2) inspiring positive change in the fields of Spanish and Portuguese language, pedagogy, linguistics, literature, film, and culture.

The conference will be a 2-day interdepartmental event designed to offer an open platform for undergraduates, graduates, professors, and scholars to exchange ideas and research. Each day will entail multiple panels of presentations, moderated by Ph.D. students and professors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Spanish and Portuguese Department.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

Linguistics:
We welcome explorations of language use, structure, and change in Spanish and Portuguese-speaking communities. We are looking for presentations that address how collective identities are formed and expressed through language, including bilingualism, code-switching, or discourse strategies that foster solidarity or resistance.

Medieval:
We welcome studies focusing on medieval Iberian texts, languages, and cultures. Submissions might focus on how medieval narratives construct communal identities or envision collective futures in relation to religion, politics, or social order.

Early Modern:
We welcome research examining early modern Iberian and colonial texts and cultural production. Presentations could analyze various topics, ranging from collaborative authorship, community formation, to resistance in early modern literature, theater, or historical documents.

Latin American:
We welcome proposals that investigate the social, political, and cultural landscapes of Latin America. Contributions might explore how literature, film, or other media imagine collective futures amid histories of colonization, indigenous resistance, and social movements.

Chicanx:
We welcome works addressing Chicanx cultural, linguistic, and political experiences. Potential topics include narratives of borderlands, activism, identity construction, and collective memory within Chicanx communities, among other topics.

Caribbean:
We welcome analyses of Caribbean linguistic and cultural expressions that reflect histories of migration, diaspora, and resistance. Presentations may explore how collective identities and futures are shaped through literature, music, and oral traditions.

Portuguese:
We welcome studies of Lusophone cultures and languages across Brazil, Portugal, and African Portuguese-speaking countries. Possible focuses include collaborative cultural production, language pedagogy, literature, linguistics and media that articulates visions of community and change.

When in doubt, submit a proposal! We always welcome creative and innovative research projects that foster intercultural connection. Presentations will be conducted individually in English, Spanish, or Portuguese, and should be 15 minutes long, with 5 additional minutes for Q&A.

Please submit proposals using this form. The submission deadline is 01/10/2026.

For more details, contact us at kaleidoscopeuw@gmail.com or visit the conference website: https://kaleidoscope.spanport.wisc.edu/