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 21st Annual Kaleidoscope Conference:

Who Gets to Speak?

Voice, Power and Representation in the Hispanic and Lusophone World

Conference date: March 5-6th, 2027
Conference format: Hybrid (In-person / via Zoom)
Conference language: participants can choose to present in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.
Abstract Submission Deadline: January 22nd, 2027
Presentation Submission Deadline: January 29th, 2027

The 2027 Kaleidoscope 21st Annual Graduate Student Conference invites discussion centered around voice, power, and representation in the Hispanic and Lusophone world. We aim to explore how individuals and communities use language, literature, and cultural expression to share their voices and how certain voices may be amplified, marginalized, or silenced. We also seek to examine how power shapes language and cultural practices, influences whose perspectives are valued, and determines who has the authority to shape narratives. Finally, we invite reflection on how literature, language, and culture represent identities, communities, and experiences, and how these representations can both reinforce and challenge dominant narratives. Broadly conceived, the theme welcomes diverse approaches to voice, power, and representation, whether explored together or independently, across linguistic, literary, cultural, social, educational, and technological contexts. Together, we aim for a two-fold outcome:

1) furthering future research and motivating awareness
2) inspiring positive change in the fields of Spanish and Portuguese language, 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 articulate individual and collective voices; how authority, power, and social hierarchies shape whose voices are amplified, marginalized, or silenced; and how representations of identity, community, faith, and social order reinforce or challenge dominant narratives.

Early Modern:
We welcome research examining early modern Iberian and colonial texts and cultural production. Presentations could analyze various topics, ranging from notions of 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 voice, power, and representation 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 language, literature, music, and oral traditions give voice to individuals and communities; how power shapes cultural production and representation; and how identities, memories, and futures are constructed, negotiated, or contested.

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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 articulate visions of community and change, while also examining how power shapes cultural expression, representation, and the circulation of diverse voices.

Submission guidelines:
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 01/22/2027.