

**XXIII Annual Juan Bruce-Novoa
Mexican Studies Conference**
University of California, Irvine
April 13 – 15, 2017
Precarious Archives, Shifting Memories
Keynote Speaker: ELENA PONIATOWSKA



The Department of Spanish & Portuguese at UC Irvine and UC-Mexicanistas announce the twenty-third annual Mexican Studies Conference to be held on April 13-15, 2017. This conference brings together academics from Mexico, the U.S. and other parts of the world who are conducting research on related themes.

Our keynote speaker will be **ELENA PONIATOWSKA**. As a novelist, essayist, journalist, and activist, Poniatowska has devoted the more than 50 years of her writing career to human rights issues, including advocating for women's rights, indigenous rights and victims of state oppression. In 2013, she won Spain's Premio Cervantes Literature Award, the greatest existing Spanish language literature award for an author's lifetime works, being only the 4th woman to receive such recognition.

Continuing with our tradition of featuring events from the visual and creative arts, this year's conference will host the monologue *Divino Pastor Góngora*, written by Jaime Chabaud, and directed by Mauricio García Lozano, recently presented at Festival Cervantino 2016, with actor **José Sefami** (Premio Ariel, best supporting actor, 2010).

This year's topic, "**Precarious Archives, Shifting Memories**" (**Archivos precarios, memorias cambiantes**), is inspired from the term "shifting baselines" often used in the natural sciences to describe how, from one generation to the next, the idea of normalcy can shift, thus rendering invisible the true extent of loss over a greater period of time. The term is usually used to discuss matters related to ecological conservation and human exploitation of natural resources, but it is particularly pertinent to connect ecocriticism with issues such as violence and memory in Mexican culture. When official archives are incomplete, falsified or prone to disappear, what roles are played by other forms of cultural memory? How do cultural narratives evolve over time? How are archives reconfigured and reinvented? How can slow forms of violence, such as the gradual erosion of human rights, economic resources, public space and the natural environment be rendered visible?

We encourage submissions from across disciplines, including but not limited to: literary, visual, media and performance studies, as well as religious studies, history, anthropology, political and social sciences. We are particularly, but not exclusively, interested in papers that address the following themes:

1. Reading fiction as archive, or archive as fiction
2. A reading of archives through object oriented ontologies
3. The politics of preservation
4. Remembrance, time and technology.
5. Ethnography meets the archive
6. Archives, knowledge, and power
7. Phenomenology of the archive
8. Transnational or diasporic archives in movement
9. The archive as embodied practice
10. Fragmented and interrupted archives

We will also consider papers that explore other themes in Mexican literature and culture.

Papers should be written in either Spanish or English. Presentations are limited to no more than 20 minutes (8 pages double-spaced). If you are interested in reading an original paper, please submit a 200 word abstract electronically to mexconf@uci.edu by the deadline of **January 16, 2017**. Proposals should include the following information: title of the presentation, name of participant, affiliation, academic status, mailing address, telephone and email. The selection committee will respond to all proposals by **February 10, 2017**.

Registration fees for this year's conference will be \$35 for students and independent scholars, and \$45 for faculty until March 11, 2016. Afterwards, the cost will be \$45 and \$55 respectively.

Hotel reservations should be made by March 22nd to ensure room availability. Contact Ayres Hotel, 325 Bristol St • Costa Mesa, CA, 92626 • Tel. (800) 322-9992

If you have questions, please contact:

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