

Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Call for Papers

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies is pleased to announce its first graduate conference to be held on April 11 & 12, 2014, at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.

“Power, Prestige and the Periphery”

Graduate Conference in Hispanic and Lusophone Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics

“The relations of domination are, at the same time, relations of resistance”
James C. Scott. *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*

Expressions of language as a symbolic order have been used repeatedly throughout history and across cultures as means, motivations, and justifications for domination and repression. Those who have access to the dominant forms are often, by consequence, more powerful and prestigious than those who keep to marginalized forms, whether by choice or by necessity. In regards to this relationship, it is important to consider the role of language and cultural production. Where inequality and domination exist, language and culture can also be used to challenge or redefine power and prestige, often from the periphery. There are countless examples of this in the Hispanic and Lusophone contexts. Our conference invites presenters in the fields of literature and linguistics to consider the following questions: What are the ways in which the periphery challenges power and prestige? How is language brought to bear in such contexts, and to what ends? If so, how does this cultural production represent such confluences? As scholars, what is our role in this conversation?

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Questions of the canon
- Language policy
- Gender/sexuality
- Power struggles
- Nationalism
- Spanish in the US
- Major/minor literatures
- Hegemony
- Dialect awareness and Identity
- The subaltern
- Language variation
- Translation
- Language contact
- Periphery/Diaspora
- Education

Please submit an abstract no longer than 250 words in extension by e-mail to spptconf@umn.edu before December 15, 2013. Please add a list of 3-5 keywords to your abstract. In a separate document please include your name, academic affiliation and contact information. Presentations may be delivered in English, Spanish or Portuguese and should be 20 minutes in length. Conference registration for selected participants will be \$20 before February 15, 2014 and \$30 after. Select papers will be published. For more information about the conference, please visit <http://spanport.umn.edu/grad/GradConf2014.html>.