

MÉXICO NOW: STORYTELLING, POWER, AND RESISTANCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A MEXICANISTS OF CENTRAL NEW YORK COLLOQUIUM

In memory of Debra Castillo

Sponsored by:



Central New York
Humanities Corridor

Department of World Languages
and Literatures

SKIDMORE
COLLEGE

México Now: Storytelling, Power, and Resistance in the 21st Century
A Mexicanists of Central New York Colloquium in Memory of Debra Castillo
Skidmore College
October 31–November 1
Program

Friday, October 31, Wyckoff Center

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| 2:30–3:00 pm | Welcome Remarks and Celebration of Debra Castillo’s Life
Oscar A. Pérez Hernández, Skidmore College
Melissa Castillo-Garsow, CUNY Graduate Center & Lehman College |
| 3:00–3:50 pm | Panel 1. Book Showcase (Hybrid)
Emily Celeste Vázquez Enríquez (UC Davis), <i>Border Biomes: Ecological Imaginaries of Mexico's Edges</i> (2025)
Claudio Palomares-Salas (Queen’s University), <i>Mexican Canto Nuevo: Music, Politics, and Resistance</i> (2025)
Discussant: Lena Retamoso Urbano |
| 3:50–4:00 pm | Break |
| 4:00–5:00 pm | “Storytelling, Power, and Resistance in 21 st Century México: A Conversation with Guadalupe Nettel and Juan Pablo Villalobos.”
Moderator: María Lander |
| 5–5:30 pm | Reception |

Saturday, November 1, Wyckoff Center

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| 9:00–9:30 am | Breakfast and Welcome |
| 9:30–10:40 am | Panel 2. Spaces and Stories in Contemporary Film
Ilka Kressner (University at Albany–SUNY), “Growing Stories, Stories of Growing-Up: Oral Pedagogies in Tatiana Huezo’s <i>El Eco</i> ”
Silvia Alvarez-Olarrá (BMCC–CUNY), “Heterotopías futbolísticas: el espacio y lo vivo en <i>Serengheti</i> (2019) de Carlos Reygadas”
Carmen A. Serrano (University at Albany–SUNY), <i>Pedro Páramo reanimado: la adaptación fílmica de Rodrigo Prieto</i> (2024)
Discussant: Mary Kate Donovan |

10:40-11:30 am	Panel 3. Borders and Migration Esteban Loustaunau (Assumption University), “Voces que amplifican la presencia inmigrante: <i>Yo tuve un sueño</i> de Juan Pablo Villalobos” Diana Barnes (Skidmore College), “Bordering Truths; Words and Power on the Line” Discussant: Abel Arango
11:30-11:40 am	Break
11:40 am-12:40 pm	Keynote Address: “Distancia, ritmo y paranoia: lengua y escritura fuera de lugar” Juan Pablo Villalobos
12:40-2:40 pm	Lunch (Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, Second Floor)
2:40-3:50 pm	Panel 4. Race, Indigeneity, and Body Politics Jorge Quintana Navarrete (Dartmouth College), “Geology, Racialization, and the Stratigraphic Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Mexico” Kristi Peterson (Skidmore College), “(In)visibility: Juan Correa and the (Black) Body in the Art of New Spain” George Azcárate (Vassar College), “Workshops of Healing: Narrative, Disease, and Power in Modern Mexico” Discussant: Violeta Lorenzo
3:50-4:00 pm	Break
4:00-5:00 pm	Keynote Address: “Transmuting Lead into Gold/Transformar el plomo en Oro” Guadalupe Nettel

Resources:

- Mexicanists of Central New York Working Group
<https://www.cnycorridor.net/groups/llc40-mexicanists-of-central-new-york/>
- Skidmore Maps:
<https://www.skidmore.edu/maps-directions-tours/index.php>

Contact:

María Lander, mlander@skidmore.edu
Oscar A. Pérez, operezhe@skidmore.edu

Mexicanists of Central New York Group Organizers:

Jessica Burke
Debra Castillo
May Farnsworth
Carolyn Fornoff
María Lander
Cristina Pardo Porto
Oscar A. Pérez

Lodging Options:

- Saratoga Hilton
534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
- Hampton Inn & Suites Saratoga Springs Downtown
25 Lake Ave, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Presenters:

Silvia Álvarez-Olarra es profesora asociada de la Universidad de la Ciudad de Nueva York (CUNY-BMCC). Sus publicaciones más recientes dentro de los estudios mexicanos se han desarrollado en el campo del cine y las estéticas visuales en general. En estos momentos está trabajando en la coedición de un volumen colectivo sobre el cine de Carlos Reygadas de pronta publicación en Edinburgh University Press.

George Azcárate is an assistant professor of Hispanic Studies at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY. He earned his R.N. from St. Margaret School of Nursing (2009), a B.S.N. from Chatham University (2010), an M.A. in Iberian and Latin American Studies from the University of Notre Dame (2019), and a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Notre Dame (2025). His research and teaching interests explore the healer/patient relationship and how the patient's body is transformed into a book that the healer not only reads in search of signs and symptoms, but also writes and edits.

Diana Barnes teaches Spanish language and literature along with US/Mexico border studies at Skidmore College. Her border courses examine artistic representations of the essence of division and consider US immigration policy and its consequences from a humanitarian perspective.

Ilka Kressner is an Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies at UAlbany, SUNY. Her scholarship and teaching examine contemporary Latin American film, literature, and visual arts within a Pan-Latin

American perspective, often with a comparative focus. Her research areas are the environmental humanities, ecofeminisms, conceptions of space in art and of art in space, and intermediality.

Esteban Loustaunau is Professor of Spanish and Director of the Community Service-Learning Program at Assumption University in Worcester, MA. He earned a Ph.D. and M.A. in Latin American literatures and cultures at The Ohio State University, and a B.A. in Spanish at Carleton College. His research interests focus on contemporary Mexican and Central American literature, film, and music as these intersect with issues related to migration caused by dispossession and expulsion. He has led engaged learning and artistic projects to empower Mexican immigrants in the Midwest and, most recently, Central American unaccompanied refugee minors in New England. His scholarly work has been published in several book collections and in peer reviewed journals such as *Revista Iberoamericana*, *CR: The New Centennial Review*, *Revista de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea*, *Latino Studies*, *Diálogo: An Interdisciplinary Studies Journal*, among others. With Lauren Shaw, he is co-editor of the book *Telling Migrant Stories: Latin American Diaspora in Documentary Film* (University of Florida Press, 2018; 2021).

Guadalupe Nettel is the author of the international award-winning novels *El huésped* (2006), *El cuerpo en que nací* (2011), *Después del invierno* (2014), and *La hija única* (2020), as well as the collections of short stories *El matrimonio de los peces rojos* (2013) and *Los divagantes* (2023), among others. Her work has been translated into more than twenty languages and has appeared in publications such as *Granta*, *The White Review*, *El País*, and *The New York Times*. She has been the director of the *Revista de la Universidad de México*. Her books have been adapted as theater pieces, performances, and films. *La hija única*, published in English as *Still born*, was shortlisted for the 2023 International Booker Prize. She was a 2024-2025 fellow of the Institute for Ideas and Imagination.

Claudio Palomares-Salas is Associate Professor of Latin American Studies at Queen's University. He is the author of *Mexican Canto Nuevo: Music, Politics, and Resistance* (Oxford University Press, 2025); *The Spatiality of the Hispanic Avant-Garde* (Brill, 2020), the novel *El lugar más triste para soñar* (Lugar Común, 2014), and of numerous academic articles. His areas of specialization are 20th and 21st centuries Spanish and Latin American literature, Latin American music, the Nueva Canción movements in Mexico and Latin America (1960-1980s), the transatlantic Hispanic avant-garde movements (1910-1920s), and the Latin American diasporas in the U.S. and Canada. In addition to his academic work, he is an active drummer in Montreal who has toured and recorded with various artists in Mexico, Canada, and abroad.

Kristi Peterson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art History at Skidmore College, where she teaches courses on the visual cultures of the Americas. Her primary research focuses on Aztec sacred images and their use in crafting cultural identity narratives for the empire, image theory in Mesoamerican philosophy, and ritual performance. She also researches Colonial and European representations of New World sacra and ritual; theories of representation, materialities, and the visualizations of colonial empires in the American hemisphere.

Jorge Quintana Navarrete is Associate Professor of Spanish at Dartmouth College. His research interests include Mexican culture (19th and 20th centuries), Utopian Studies, Environmental Humanities, and Science and Technology Studies. His book, *Biocosmism. Vitality and the Utopian Imagination in Postrevolutionary Mexico* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2024), examines the intellectual constellation of biocosmism or biocosmic thought: the study of universal life understood as the vital vibrancy that animates everything in the cosmos. He was awarded a Mellon New Directions Fellowship (2025–2028) for his research project *Geological Mexico: Science, Indigeneity, and the Framing of the Earth*.

Carmen A. Serrano es profesora asociada de literatura y cultura latinoamericana y Latinx en la Universidad at Albany, State University New York. Es autora de *Gothic Imagination in Latin American Fiction and Film* (University of New Mexico Press 2019), “Vampiras eternas: espejismos modernistas y góticos en Isabel de Carmen Boullosa y La sed de Adriana Díaz Enciso” (Hispanic Issues, 2025), “Duplicitous Vampires Annihilating Tradition in Froylán Turcios’s *El vampiro*” (Routledge, 2018) y “Revamping Dracula on the Mexican Silver Screen in Fernando Méndez’s *El vampiro*” (University Press of Mississippi 2016). También es productora ejecutiva de la serie de podcasts, *UAlbany Student Stories*.

Emily Celeste Vázquez Enríquez is an assistant professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Davis. Her book, *Border Biomes: Ecological Imaginaries of Mexico’s Edges* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2025), puts into dialogue the fields of border and migration studies with the environmental humanities. Her research has appeared in *Revista de la Universidad de México*, *Symposium*, *iMex*, *Romance Quarterly*, *Latin American Literary Review*, and *Ciberletras*, among others.

Juan Pablo Villalobos’s books include his Guardian First Book Award-shortlisted debut *Fiesta en la madriguera* [*Down the Rabbit Hole*] (2010), *Te vendo un perro* (2015), the Herralde award-winning novel *No voy a pedirle a nadie que me crea* (2016), *Peluquería y letras* (2022), and *El pasado anda atrás de nosotros* (2024), among others. He was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, and studied marketing and Spanish literature, before working as a market researcher and writing travel stories and literary and film criticism. The films *Down the Rabbit Hole* and *I Don’t Expect Anyone to Believe Me*, based on two of her works, are available on Netflix.

ADMISSIONS

1. Essner Admissions Center

ATHLETICS

2. Castle Diamond
3. McCaffery-Wagman Tennis and Wellness Center
4. Valentine Boathouse
5. Van Lennep Riding Center
6. Wachenheim Field
7. Wagner Park
8. Williamson Sports Center

CAMPUS FACILITIES

9. Annex, Campus Safety
10. Barrett Center
11. Billie Tisch Center for Integrated Sciences (BTCIS)
12. Bolton Hall
13. Case Green
14. Case Student Center/Wyckoff Center
15. Colton Alumni Welcome Center
16. Communications & Marketing
17. Dana Wing, BTCIS
18. Dance Center
19. Falstaff's Pavilion
20. Filene Hall
21. Greenberg Child Care Center
22. Hoge Hall
23. Janet Kinghorn Bernhardt Theater (JKB)

24. Ladd Hall
25. Murray-Alkins Dining Hall
26. North Hall
27. Palamountain Hall
28. Pine Cottage
29. Porter Plaza
30. Saissell Art Building
31. Scribner House
32. Scribner Library
33. Skidmore Shop
34. Starbuck Center
35. Surrey-Williamson Inn
36. Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery
37. Tisch Learning Center
38. Wilson Memorial Chapel Zankel
39. Music Center

RESIDENCE HALLS, APARTMENTS

40. Howe Hall
41. Jonsson Tower
42. Kimball Hall
43. McClellan Hall
44. Northwoods Village Apartments
45. Penfield Hall
46. Rounds Hall
47. Sussman Village Apartments
48. Wait Hall
49. Wiecking Hall
50. Wilmarth Hall

10/24



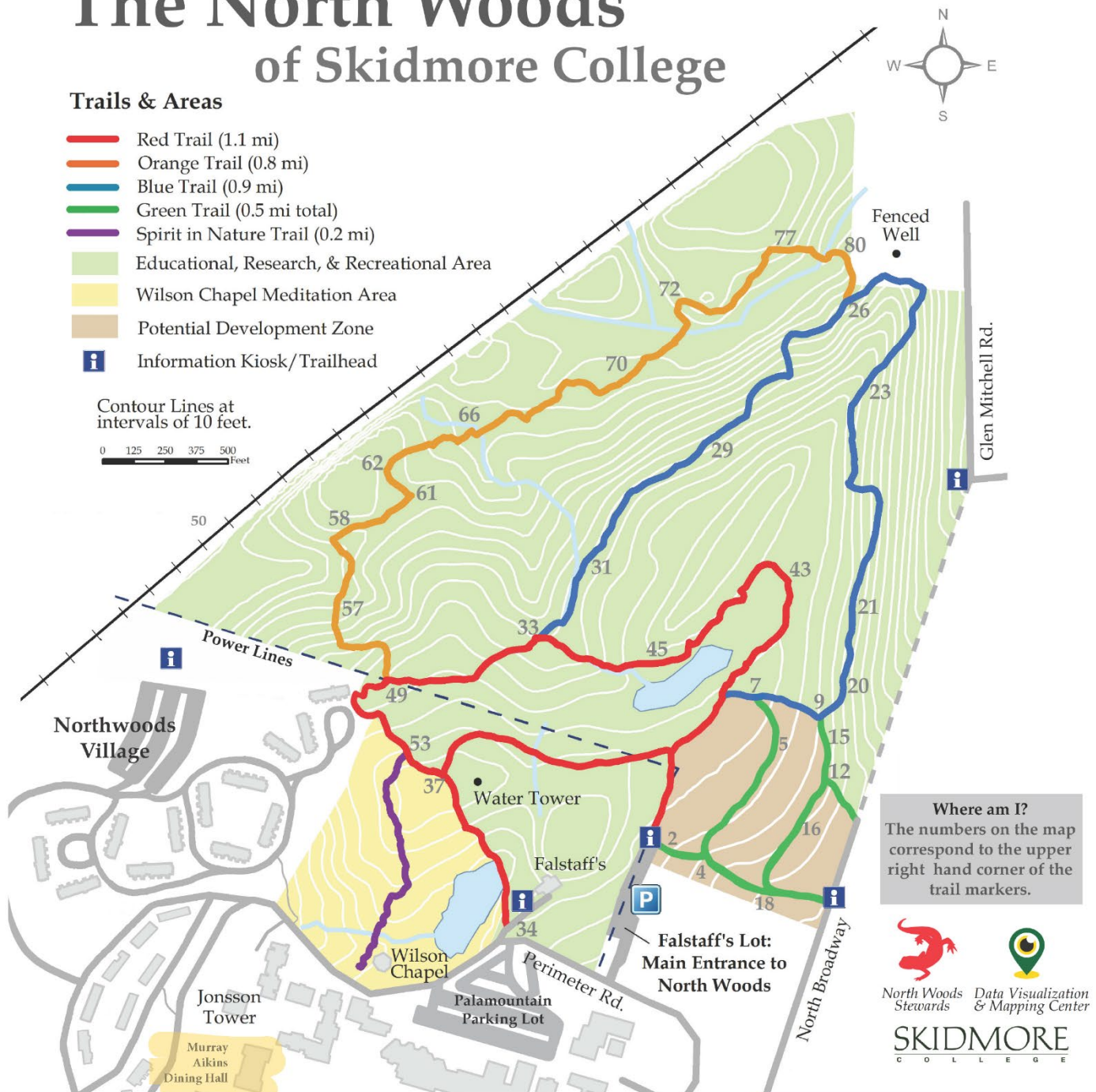
The North Woods of Skidmore College

Trails & Areas

- Red Trail (1.1 mi)
- Orange Trail (0.8 mi)
- Blue Trail (0.9 mi)
- Green Trail (0.5 mi total)
- Spirit in Nature Trail (0.2 mi)
- Educational, Research, & Recreational Area
- Wilson Chapel Meditation Area
- Potential Development Zone
- i Information Kiosk/Trailhead

Contour Lines at intervals of 10 feet.

0 125 250 375 500 Feet



Where am I?
The numbers on the map correspond to the upper right hand corner of the trail markers.



**OPEN TO VISITORS DAILY
FROM DAWN UNTIL DUSK**

Welcome to the North Woods! We invite you to experience the beauty and natural wonders of the North Woods. To keep the woods intact for education, research, and other outdoor recreation, we ask that you respect the guidelines for use.

- The North Woods Stewards

Please remember to respect designated trail closures, and do not disturb any research equipment. Please leave no trace, carry out trash, and clean up after your pets. Pets must be kept on a leash. To avoid forest fires, please do not create fire pits in the woods. For more information visit: www.skidmore.edu/northwoods

SAFETY:

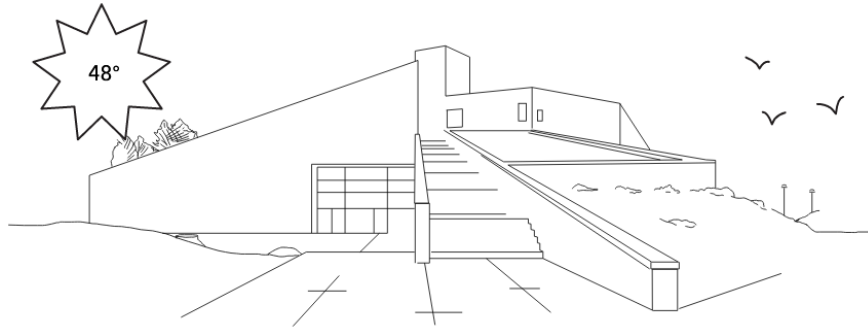
Proceed at your own risk. The college cannot be responsible for your safety in the woods.

**IN CASE OF A
LIFE-THREATENING
EMERGENCY:
CALL 911**

FOR OTHER SAFETY CONCERNS:

Call Skidmore Campus Safety at
518-580-5566 (emergency)
or 518-580-5567 (non-emergency)

Visit the Tang



Up to Us: Black Dimensions in Art, 1975– Tomorrow



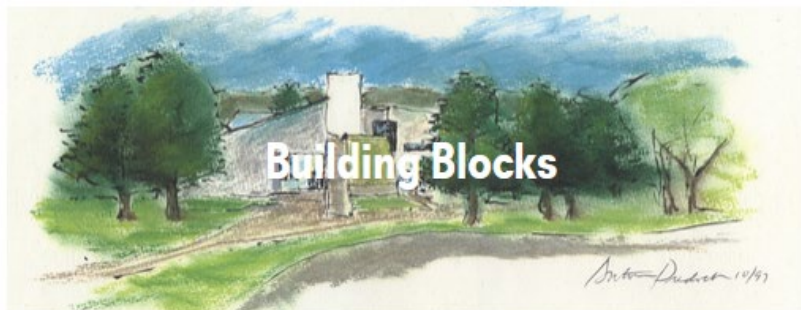
Ernest and Ruth



Hyde Cabinet #29: Pretty Classic



Building Blocks



Hours

Hours for the general public:

Tuesday 12:00 – 5:00 PM

Wednesday 12:00 – 5:00 PM

Thursday 12:00 – 9:00 PM

Friday 12:00 – 5:00 PM

Saturday 12:00 – 5:00 PM

Sunday 12:00 – 5:00 PM

Closed major holidays.

Admission

Free!

Suggested donation:

Adults \$5

Children over 12 \$3

Seniors \$2

Contact

Information: 518-580-8080

Group Tours: 518-580-5538

School Tours: 518-580-5538

Membership: 518-580-8080

Email tang@skidmore.edu