

Press Release

An International
Latina/o Studies Conference

Imagining the Past, Present, and Future

July 17-19, 2014 Chicago, IL

**5 July 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
INAUGURAL CONFERENCE ON US LATINAS/OS
Chicago, IL**

**CONTACT:
Raúl Coronado
CELL:
(415) 378-5120**

On July 17-19, 2014, Chicago will host the largest international gathering of scholars whose research focuses on US Latinas/os. More significantly, the conference will conclude with the launching of the first Latina/o studies association.

The conference will be held at the Chicago Palmer Hilton, and will bring together for the first time on a large scale scholars, teachers, and students who study the history, politics, and culture of the many Latina/o communities in the United States.

US Latinas/os comprise 17% of the US population, and are now the largest minority group in the United States. They make up more than 20% of the state population in California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Florida, and Colorado. This gathering will focus on the history, culture, and politics of the many national-origin groups that comprise the many Latina/o communities in the United States.

“We know so much about the history and culture of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, or Cubans, for example, but we know so little about the similarities and differences between these various communities,” said Raúl Coronado, one of the conference organizers.

The conference’s ultimate goal is to establish the first Latina/o studies association whose purpose will be to promote research and effect policy change related to US Latinas/os.

While organizations and conferences have been held that spotlight the largest Latina/o communities in the United States, namely, Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Central American, no conference has sought to bring together such a large vastly interdisciplinary group of scholars whose research focuses on the history, politics, and culture of Latinas/os.

“Our goal is to produce more research and knowledge about US Latinas/os as a whole,” continued Coronado who is a professor of Latina/o studies at the University of California at Berkeley. “In the end, we hope our work will help transform school curriculums and make a larger impact in national politics and culture.”

For more information contact:

Raul Coronado, University of California, Berkeley: raulc@berkeley.edu

Lourdes Torres, De Paul University: ltorres@depaul.edu

Frances Aparicio, Northwestern University: frances-aparicio@northwestern.edu

Conference is open to the public. For more information including the conference program and registration fee visit: www.latinostudiesconference.com.