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RECOVERING THE U.S. HISPANIC LITERARY HERITAGE  
THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF REGION

Albuquerque, November 4-6, 2004

*University of New Mexico*

Deadline for abstracts: May 15, 2004

*A Call for Papers for the Eighth Conference of Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage:  
The Critical Importance of Region*

In partnership with the University of New Mexico, the Recovery Board is pleased to invite you to the eighth conference of Recovering the U. S. Hispanic Literary Heritage, to be held on the UNM campus in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 4-6, 2004.

The theme for our conference takes its lead from recent developments in the field of region studies. Once considered the domain of parochial and nostalgic impulses, “critical regionalism” has emerged as a multi-disciplinary, trans-national attempt to understand the ever-growing importance of the local to the global. However, the expressed goal of “regional criticism” is to take seriously how regional dynamics are more often than not at the center of interests that get labeled “national” or “international.” Regionalism for example is not necessarily peripheral, marginal, or provincial when thinking about colonialism or imperialism in the 19th century.

In this regard, New Mexico seems like the perfect conference site to consider the implicit and explicit perimeters of regional markers that make up what we consider the U.S. Hispanic Recovery Project. How do recovered authors consider region as opposed to nation? When does region become nation? How might we re-theorize or re-historicize the importance of “place” in the colonial period?

After 1848? After 1898? In the 21st century, is the Recovery Project aiding and abetting the “browning” of America—a code word that might mean re-spatializing/ racializing Anglo America? There are also many key words to consider as a “regional” index to history, culture, myth, and gender relations: border, borderlands, frontera, isla, Nueva España, Greater Mexico, the Caribbean, El Barrio or Spanish Harlem, México de Afuera, el norte, el llano estacado, migration, immigrants, los indios, etc.

Papers or panels are also invited on any of the following themes:

Analytical studies of recovered authors and/or texts  
Folklore/oral histories  
Historiography  
Critical and theoretical approaches to recovered texts  
Language and linguistics  
Library and information science  
Curriculum development  
Social implications, cultural analyses  
Religious thought and practice  
Collections and archives

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