

Latino Caucus Minutes  
2016 AWP Conference & Bookfair  
Los Angeles Convention Center & JW Marriott Los Angeles  
March 30-April 2, 2016

R302. Latino Caucus  
Room 503, LA Convention Center, Meeting Room Level  
Thursday, March 31, 2016  
6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

Moderator: Dr. Ruben Quesada

Panel Members: Emma Trelles, Deborah Paredes, Francisco Aragón, Lorenzo Herrera y Lozano, Ruben Quesada

Agenda

- I. Presentation of the Caucus proposal (Moderator)
- II. Business (Panel Members)
- III. Caucus Discussion

**Meeting called to order 6:00pm**

1. Presentation of Caucus proposal (Moderator)

Moderator explained that the Latino Caucus was established with the idea of creating a space for writers and editors of varied Latino identities to discuss issues around the obstacles to publication and to discuss panel & event planning to increase Latino participation at AWP.

2. Business (Panel Members)

Panel Members discussed work to be done to address inequalities in access and visibility within the literary community. Areas of business included:

- Writing (Emma Trelles)
- Community Engagement (Francisco Aragón)
- Workshop/Conferences (Deborah Paredes)
- Publication (Lorenzo Herrera y Lozano)
- Editing (Ruben Quesada)

\*Emma - Write about Latinx literature in myriad forms, including book reviews, Q&As, blog posts, newspaper articles, online journals and magazines, etc. Identify publications within and outside of the Latino/a/x community that share our values regardless of the community they work within. Pitch story ideas that are event-driven (with a news-peg).

\*Francisco - Lessons learned: 1) Reaching out & forging relationships with other people and organizations is vital. 2) Events function as another kind of programming. There is intersectionality between writers/books/reading/speaking/festivals. 3) Face-to-face dialogue must be valued and cultivated.

\* Debra - CantoMundo acknowledges that the workshop model is a clumsy process, asking for and conducting a form of self-interrogation. Important to consider how the representative might be at odds with the exceptional within the context of colonizing community. Ethics of risk.

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\*Lorenzo - In terms of race & publishing, there are structural vs. systemic challenges in getting work recognized.

\*Ruben - Editing and publishing as a form of activism. Submit to many journals and create your own. Commit to translations of contemporary writers. Mentorship.

### 3. Caucus Discussion

Panel members and attendants discussed how to increase Latino participation at AWP Conferences.

AWP must demonstrate the need for greater inclusion of Latina/o writers by making them more visible at Conferences. AWP must include and provide the following:

- Featured presenters who are Latina/o and Latin American writers and editors
- Panels and events led in Spanish and in Spanglish
- Promotion of Latina/o and Latin American events that occur both on-site and off-site
- Mentorship programs for Latina/o and Latin American writers and editors

**Meeting adjourned by Dr. Ruben Quesada, Moderator, at 7:15pm**