

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Conference will explore range of contemporary Hispanic issues

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Contact: Dr. Maria Figueredo
Professor, Languages and Literatures
(519) 884-0710 ext. 2792

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University will host a conference on a wide range of Spanish and Portuguese topics, from politics to the visual arts, in the Paul Martin Centre between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Friday, November 12.

Laurier is hosting a meeting of the Ontario-Canada chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP). Academics and researchers will present a series of papers, workshops and cultural demonstrations involving Luso-Hispanic literature, culture, history, politics, philosophy, film studies, women's studies, visual arts, linguistics and pedagogy.

“Luso-Hispanic applies to the linguistic-cultural link in Portuguese and Spanish-speaking communities,” explains Maria Figueredo, professor of languages and literatures at Laurier, and president of the Ontario-Canada chapter of the AATSP. “Our conference will explore that link across various areas of society.”

Maria Elena de Valdes, former head of the Northern Telecom Chair of Comparative Literary Cultural History at the University of Toronto, will deliver the keynote address at 4 p.m. Her talk, entitled *Las soldaderas en la historia y la literatura mexicana*, will cover the impact of women who fought in the Mexican Revolution and their portrayal in literature.

Valdes and her husband are frequently invited to speak at research institutions around the world. They recently collaborated on a multi-volume work on world literary culture, entitled *Rethinking Literary History: A Dialogue on Theory*, published by Oxford University Press.

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The conference will also include a showing of the Mexican film *Danzón* at 8 p.m. in Room BA101 of the Bricker academic building. *Danzón*, by Mexican director Maria Novaro, tells the story of a woman, the single mother of a 15-year-old girl, who searches for a man who is not really her man.

The conference is open to members of the general public, free of charge. All sessions will be delivered in Spanish. To access a Spanish program, please visit www.wlu.ca/events_detail.php?grp_id=81&ev_id=61 and click on the link Program of the Day.

The AATSP is a North American association of professors of languages, literatures and culture.