The Latin American Studies Program and the Casa Hispánica of the University of Vermont are the principal sponsors of an Annual Hispanic Forum. Other departments, programs, and offices of the University also provide substantial support for the Forum. The theme of this, the Third Annual Hispanic Forum, is Delmira Agustini and Modernisms. Future Fora will continue to examine and explore diverse areas of the multifaceted Hispanic World.

Organizers:
Tina F. Escaja
Juan Francisco Maura
Timothy Murad

This conference is sponsored by the following UVM contributors:
- Latin American Studies Program
- Casa Hispánica
- Office of the Provost
- College of Arts & Sciences
- Graduate College
- International Studies Program
- Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Women's Studies Program
- Department of German and Russian
- Department of Sociology
- Department of Romance Languages
Delmira Agustini and Modernisms

The end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth was a period of change, renewal, and innovation whose aesthetic manifestations are known as modernism. For the Hispanic world, the term modernism (modernismo) designates one of the richest and most fertile periods of its literary history. Syncretism, exoticism, eroticism, and a constant search for new forms of expression are but a few of modernism’s characteristics in Spanish America and Spain. In these regions modernism, or modernismo, was marked as well by a profound sense of cultural transformation as a response to a generally perceived crisis of values.

Delmira Agustini was one of the most notable figures of Hispanic modernismo. Born in Uruguay in 1886, her brief poetic production enriched modernista aesthetics by incorporating a woman’s voice into a literary world that based much of its ideology on the utilization of women as a fetish. With Delmira Agustini’s death in 1914, when she was murdered by her former husband, Spanish American modernismo lost one of its most singular poetic voices. Contemporary criticism as well as a general interest in the cultural production of Hispanic women have begun to recuperate that once silenced voice.

The Third Annual Hispanic Forum seeks to recognize Delmira Agustini by evaluating her contribution to Hispanic modernism and at the same time to further a continuing discussion of one of the most fascinating periods of Hispanic literary history. By recuperating Delmira Agustini and her once silenced voice the inclusion of women in modernist discourse and in a literary canon that all too frequently excluded them can begin. To this end the Forum is pleased to count on the presence of scholars and specialists from throughout the United States and from several Hispanic countries. The Third Annual Hispanic Forum’s rich and diverse program will afford all who attend the opportunity to participate in a ground-breaking discussion concerning Delmira Agustini and Modernisms.

Program Schedule

Thursday, September 26

9:30 a.m. (in English):
Opening Remarks by Prof. Tina F. Escaja, Director Casa Hispánica, The University of Vermont

Session 1 (in Spanish):
Prof. Lázaro Lima, Moderator

9:45 a.m.
Elizabeth Núñez, University of Notre Dame
“Construyendo mitos de papel: La representación de lo femenino en dos poetas del modernismo en México”

10:30 a.m.
Marta Umanzor, St. Michaels College
“El modernismo en El Salvador: La poética de Claudia Lars”

11:15 a.m.
Jorge Santiago Perednik, Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina)
“Lugones y la Lu[d]ona los Lu[g]ones en Lugo[nes]”

12:00 p.m. Lunch

Session 2 (in Spanish):
Prof. Juan Maura, Moderator

1:15 p.m.
José Carlos González Boixo, Universidad de León (España) “Pensamiento conservador y feminismo en las escritoras del final del modernismo”

2:00 p.m.
Francisco Javier Lasarte Valcárcel, Universidad Simón Bolívar (Venezuela) “Idea de la mujer en los hombres modernistas – Martí y González Prada”

2:45 p.m.
Gabriela Mora, Rutgers University
La corriente decadentista en el modernismo

3:45 p.m. Special Session:
Presented by Prof. Alejandro Cáceres
Uruguay Cortazo, Universidad Nacional de Montevideo (Uruguay) “Delmira. Hacia una interpretación sexo-política”

Friday, September 27

Session 4 (in English):
Prof. Gayle Roof-Nunley, Moderator

9:45 a.m.
Lanin Gyurko, University of Arizona
“Rubén Darío and the Impossible Woman”

10:30 a.m.
Bruno Bosteels, Harvard University
“The Eternal Bride: The Efficacy of Ideology in Spanish American Modernism”

11:15 a.m.
Christine Ehrick, UCLA “Erotismo and Feminismo: Gender Politics and Women’s Changing Roles in Delmira Agustini’s Uruguay.”

12:00 p.m. Lunch

Session 5 (in English):
Prof. Tina Escaja, Moderator

1:15 p.m.
Alejandro Cáceres, Southern Illinois University
“Delmira Agustini: The Search for Sexual Identity and the Construction of Her Self”

2:00 p.m.
Estela Valverde, The University of Queensland (Australia) “D[e]l[m]ira: The Construction of the Male in Agustini’s Poetry”

2:45 p.m.
Magdalena García Pinto, University of Missouri
“The Meaning of Woman’s Difference in the Age of Sensibility: The Case of Delmira Agustini, Poet”

3:30 p.m. Round Table:
“Women and Modernisms in the Curriculum”
Moderator: Prof. Gretchen van Slyke

5:00 Special Session:
Presented by Prof. Timothy Murad
Gwen Kirkpatrick, University of Berkley
“Latin American Modernism and Fin de siglo XX: Why Does Delmira Agustini Still Matter?”

6:15 Reception
Closing Remarks by Prof. Juan Maura, Director Latin American Studies Program
Spanish Guitar by Allen Bouchard