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## "A (Wo)Man in the Mirror": Immigrant Transitions I

### Session Chair:

Ljiljana Coklin, University of California, Santa Barbara

### Time:

Session 9: 9:00-10:30am

### Location:

RCC Meeting Room 6

### Topic Area:

"A (Wo)Man in the Mirror": Immigrant Transitions [1]

### Presenters/Papers:

1.

*Un cubano sato; or a Cuban Mutt:*

On the Cultural Dimensions of Ernest Hemingway's Immigration to Cuba

[2]

Jeffrey Herlihy-Mera, University of Puerto Rico

The scholarly treatment of immigration in American Literatures often concerns the writings of newcomers to the US, but there is also a rich corpus of literature from emigrant Americans (that is, authors from the US who moved elsewhere). Ernest Hemingway is often labeled an "expatriate" but he did not intend to return to the US from Cuba (and did so under threat of violence), making him an immigrant to Cuba. This paper examines how Hemingway's immersion in Cuban culture influenced the literary devices in his writing.

2.

Over the Borderline: The Double Crossing of Nation and Gender at LA's La Plaza Bar

[3]

Katherine Steelman, California State University Long Beach

LA's oldest operating Latin@ gay bar, La Plaza, is a paradox – at once frozen in time, and yet embodying physical and national transition. I interrogate the relationship between drag performance, transgender identity and migration as it manifests itself in the physical location of La Plaza through the scholarly works of Jose Muñoz and others, as well as through interviews with people who inhabit the space of La Plaza.

3.

Hollywood's Chinatown: Traversing the Border and the Other Side

[4]

0. Cara Busch, National Chengchi University, Taiwan

Much has been written about the Othering of bodies and groups of people, but the Othering of places themselves has received little attention. This paper connects the research of real-world Chinatowns to its representations in American film and TV. When the borders of Chinatown on screen are breached by outsiders, visitors will find alien eatables, self-Orientalism, and violence. This border also delineates different generations of Chinese immigrants on either side.

4.

The Pleasures and Politics of Sexual Transgression in Contemporary U.S. Immigration Narratives

[5]

Daniel Chaskes, LIM College

This essay argues that sexual transgression in contemporary U.S. immigration narratives represents a rejection of conventional assimilatory practices rooted in consumerism and class mobility.

**Session Cancelled:**

No

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**Links:**

[1] <http://www.pamla.org/2014/topics/woman-the%C2%A0mirror-immigrant-transitions>

[2] <http://www.pamla.org/2014/proposals/un-cubano-sato-or-cuban-mutt%C2%A0-cultural-dimensions-ernest-hemingway%E2%80%99s-immigration-cuba>

[3] <http://www.pamla.org/2014/proposals/over-borderline-double-crossing-nation-and-gender-la%E2%80%99s-la-plaza-bar>

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