The Latinx, Indigenous, and the Americas Focus Group (LIA) of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) invites panel proposals for the 2018 ATHE conference to be held in Boston, Massachusetts. The theme, “Theatres of Revolution: Performance, Pedagogy, and Protest” draws upon the city’s historical significance in the American Revolution, and as a site of both academic excellence and artistic innovation. The 2018 ATHE Conference will focus on revolution, resistance, and protest and the multiple ways these ideas—and the actions that spring from them—impact theatre in higher education.

Considering the myriad ways in which both the left and the right harnessed the concept of “revolution” before and after the 2016 presidential election, the conference theme invites examination of ways in which electoral representation resonates with theory and practice in theatre-making. Latinx, Indigenous, and Latin American Theatre manifest a kind of revolution in its very existence. The capacity and will for colonized and marginalized peoples to tell and embody their own stories revolts against the structures which work to erase, mute, or represent them. Bodies of creative output from Latinx, Indigenous, and Latin American dramatists and performance artists have developed significantly within the 20th and 21st centuries, despite systemic efforts to silence, reform, prohibit, or monetize such work. Additionally, theatre and performance have been utilized literally as tools for resistance, social and political mobilization, and community formation for Latinx, Indigenous, and Latin American communities. This historical relationship between resistance efforts, protest, and performance may prove to be instructive during the Trump era when policies impacting human rights (specific to Latinx, Latin American, and Indigenous peoples) are in question. Finally, “Theatres of Revolution” advances the work many of us do each semester as we consider the best ways in which we can decolonize our syllabi, our theatre history and dramatic literature classes, and our department production seasons.

Although panel proposals need not explicitly connect to the theme of “Theatres of Revolution: Performance, Pedagogy, and Protest” LIA invites theoretical, critical, pedagogical, or creative/praxis-based panel session proposals, and will give special attention and consideration to submissions that:

- Propose innovative investigations of the intersections (in terms of both form of session and content of session) between revolution and performance that concern U.S. Latinx, Latin American, and Indigenous populations and their cultural productions.
- Explore pedagogical strategies, questions, and foci that parse the relationship between revolution and performance that concern U.S. Latinx, Latin American, and Indigenous populations and their cultural productions.

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• Convene conversations/sessions that propose discussions that adamantly seek to cross-pollinate the conversation among U.S. Latinx, Latin American, and Indigenous performance topics, objects of study, and theoretical ideas.

• Offer panels/sessions that are multidisciplinary in nature: that utilize session participants from diverse ATHE Focus Groups or offer panels comprised of participants from separate institutions.

• Offer panels/sessions with no more than four participants (not including a session Chair, which would constitute the fifth person on the panel). Panel/session proposals with no more than four scheduled participants will be given leading priority for selection.

• Offer practice-based/creative ideas that engage the topic of revolution, resistance and protest directly.

• Incorporate vibrant and non-traditional methodological approaches to paper presentations and creative/practice-based approaches to conference presentations/discussions.

• Do not require A/V.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

As noted at the 2018 Membership Meeting, Courtney Mohler and Noe Montez hope to continue the trajectory we began in 2017 on curating panels that are more inclusive and accessible to members of the Focus Group, as well as to outsiders who are new to ATHE, and want to participate with us. Consequently, we ask that you submit conference panel proposals to us in advance, so that we can then create a list of potential LIA panels that will be placed on the ATHE webpage and the group’s Facebook page.

• **Proposals for Panels, Monday September 18, 2017.** Please submit a two to three sentence-length proposal for a panel for a 2017 panel to Courtney Elkin Mohler (carmel.elkin@gmail.com) and Noe Montez (noe.montez@gmail.com).

• The list of potential ATHE panels will be immediately compiled and posted on all channels of communication (ATHE Webpage, LIA Facebook) so that interested parties may submit papers for the session coordinator’s consideration. If you already have panelists committed to your session, please let us know that when you submit materials. Please also let us and other FG conference planners know if you plan on submitting a multidisciplinary panel. Session coordinators who do not submit their panel proposals before this deadline risk not being ranked or being placed at the bottom of our order when Courtney and Noe submit information to the conference committee. Proposing a panel does not guarantee that the panel will be accepted to the conference, as the ATHE conference committee makes the ultimate determination of how many panels LIA will receive.

• **Submit Papers for Panels: October 15, 2017** Please submit your paper proposals to panels that seem to be viable fits for your work. Do not submit papers to more than two panels, as ATHE requires that someone not participate in more than two panels within the conference. Panel proposers will then decide which paper proposals best serve the goals of their sessions.

• **Complete Sessions/Panels: November 1, 2017.** Submit your session proposal directly to ATHE online at [www.athe.org](http://www.athe.org) — more information about procedures on LIA ATHE blog site: http://www.athe.org/blogpost/1090161/Latino-Latina-Focus-Group

• **++ Please submit a separate copy of your completed proposal to Conference Planner Courtney Mohler at carme.elkin@gmail.com** when you submit your ATHE online proposal. This allows LIA to help curate your session through the submission process.

*Participation by presenters in LIA has grown tremendously over the past few years. Therefore, selecting from our many submissions becomes a challenging process for conference planners as the process becomes*
more competitive. As our membership grows we cannot guarantee that panels (and single paper submissions) will be accepted, particularly if they include formatting errors including a lack of paper titles or clear thematic cohesion. With limited spacing available, we offer the following advice to help you plan your submissions:

- Make sure your session is in compliance with submission instructions (see ATHE’s website for further information). Do not leave details out of your proposal since this may affect your submission’s ranking. Also, be specific in your paper abstracts and panel descriptions.
- Offer full, cohesive panel sessions of paper presentations (as opposed to individuals offering single paper submissions for consideration). Single paper submissions will not necessarily be able to find a secure position in this year’s LIA conference selections.
- We strongly encourage potential participants to have conversations for forming panels and finding possible panel participants with both Noe Montez, LIA Focus Group Representative (noe.montez@gmail.com) and Courtney Elkin Mohler, LIA Conference Planner, (carmel.elkin@gmail.com) early in the process.
- We also encourage potential participants to participate in the dialogue and seek collaboration using the LIA ATHE blog site: http://www.athe.org/group/LFG
- Due to the cost of A/V in our hotel conference venues, ATHE Leadership has communicated to Noe and Courtney that some preference may be given to panels that do not require Audio/Visual capabilities.

A NOTE ON COMMUNICATION

ATHE hosts focus group “pages” or “forums” where focus groups post all information and communications. Joining the LIA forum page is easy. Registered, dues paying ATHE members will obtain full functionality of the new website. Non-members can also access particular elements of the site (see below).

How to affiliate with the LATINX, INDIGENOUS, AND THE AMERICAS FOCUS GROUP on the ATHE website for all communication for registered ATHE members, i.e., you have paid your ATHE membership fee for 2016:

1. Go to the ATHE homepage (www.athe.org).
2. Sign into your ATHE account. (If you don’t remember your username or password, use the “Contact Us” function at the very top of the page.) Once you are logged in, continue to Step 3.
3. Hover over the “Groups” tab.
4. Hover over “Focus Groups L-S.”
6. In the top left corner of the LIA Focus Group page, you should see two menu items: “Directory & Features” and “Join Group.” Select “Join Group.”
7. You are now affiliated with the Latinx, Indigenous, and the Americas Focus Group and will receive communications! You can now participate in our forum discussions, post blogs, and take advantage of the other site functions we will be launching in the coming weeks and months. Please note that we will continue to work on updating and streamlining the site. We will now be sending important conference & non-conference announcements via this medium.

What if you are not a registered (dues paying) member of ATHE but want to participate in LIA discussions on this new site? ATHE has introduced a new Participation-Only Website Registration, which is absolutely free of charge. You can sign up for this at http://www.athe.org/?page=Join_ATHE.