

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference 2019

Orlando, FL — August 7-11, 2019

Latinx, Indigenous, and the Americas Call for Panel Proposals

**ATHE 2019 Conference Theme — Scene Changes:
Performing, Teaching, and Working
through the Transitions**

The Latinx, Indigenous, and the Americas Focus Group (LIA) of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) invites panel proposals for the 2019 ATHE conference to be held in Orlando, Florida. The theme, “Scene Changes: Performing, Teaching, and Working through the Transitions” invites participants to consider the many changes that have transpired in Orlando, the nation, the world, our stages and our classrooms in the six years since ATHE last gathered in “The City Beautiful” in 2013.

The 2019 ATHE Conference Committee writes of this year’s theme:

Seemingly accelerated cycles of public violence, political change, creative innovation, and generational expectations have led us to ponder what comes next, and how exactly we’ve arrived at our present moment. Our return to the resort space of the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress affords us the opportunity to pause and reflect upon the constantly changing scenery, to contemplate the forces that have thus far shaped our field and our organization, and to debate possible visions of the future – for our art, our institutions, and our students.

The city of Orlando and the state of Florida have over the years experienced dramatic scene shifts, often presaging national changes. From colonial wars to contested elections, Indian Removal Acts to mass shootings, urban experiments to moon shots – Orlando offers to the visitor a panoramic background of troubled pasts and future visions prompting us to consider the possibilities and consequences of our scene changes. The city’s various theme parks provide their own encapsulated representations of past and future, visions that are themselves constantly changing, both in their built scenic environments and in the ideologies that such scenery materializes.

Considering the myriad ways our lives as artists, critics, teachers, scholars and world citizens have radically changed in the past several years, the conference theme invites examination of how these changes/transformations/transitions resonate with theory and practice in theatre-making and pedagogy. Although panel proposals need not explicitly conned to the theme of “Scene Changes: Performing, Teaching, and Working through the Transitions” LIA invites theoretical, critical, pedagogical, or creative/praxis-based panel session proposals, and will give special attention and consideration to submissions that:

- Consider the practical challenges of scene changes for U.S. Latinx, Latin American, and Indigenous playwrights, directors, dramaturges, designers, actors, stage managers, and stage crews. How is labor divided, appreciated and valued in the making and running of production?
- Analyze the ways in which historical scene changes in power: settler colonialism, ecological-racism, wealth and resource distribution, and institutionalized white supremacy, have impacted

and are impacted by U.S. Latinx, Latin American, and Indigenous lived experience and creative output.

- Explore pedagogical strategies and foci, which navigate movements defined by change as these concern U.S. Latinx, Latin American, and Indigenous populations and their cultural productions.
- Convene sessions that seek to cross-pollinate the transforming conversations and coalitions among U.S. Latinx, Latin American, and Indigenous performance topics, objects of study, and theoretical ideas.
- Examine how societal, political and aesthetic scene changes shape audience expectations and experiences. How will our field respond to the challenges and opportunities represented by recent changes in leadership, and by shifting economies of production? How do we reflect on techniques of theatre education and scholarship in this changing moment?
- 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 AV.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

As noted at the 2018 Membership Meeting, Noe Montez and Courtney Elkin Mohler 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, Extended date: October 1, 2018.** Please submit a two to three sentence-length **proposal for a 2019 panel** to Courtney Elkin Mohler (carmel.elkin@gmail.com) and Noe Montez (noe.montez@gmail.com).
- The list of potential ATHE panels will then be 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, 2018** 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, 2018.** Submit your session proposal directly to ATHE online at 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 carmel.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 AV 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 2018:

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.”
5. Select “Latinx, Indigenous, and the Americas Focus Group.”
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.