

Call for Papers
Canadian Association of Hispanists (CAH) Annual Conference
Ottawa, June 3-5, 2023

Session Title: Eco-crip Readings: Disability and Ecology in Spain & Latin America

Session Organizers: Shanna Lino (York University, Glendon College)
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This panel explores the intersection of ecology and disability in texts from Spain and Latin America. Recognizing the materiality of both human and more-than-human bodies, we consider the possibilities afforded by eco-crip theory to examine the marginalizing cultures of normalization, ableism, and speciesism and to positively value wide-ranging understandings, experiences, and contexts of embodied disability and environment.

Eco-crip literature, film, and criticism interrogate culturally situated power structures that appraise sentient and non-sentient beings/forms/entities as deficient and that cement devaluation and exploitation through institutionalized, pathologized systems. These approaches acknowledge that nonhuman tropes have long been employed to derogate people with disabilities and thus deploy critical strategies from the fields of disability studies and the environmental humanities that together argue for non-hierarchical appraisals of differing abilities and of embodiment along with an affirmation of interdependence.

Crip theory deepens the critique of homogenizing normalization to defiantly salvage and resituate the derogatory term that it reappropriates. The merger of crip theory with ecocriticism expands the assertion of the material intersectionality of race, gender, and sexuality to also engage with ecology, thus exploring the potential for mutually beneficial existences of disabled bodies and communities with the natural environment.

We invite proposals for 15-20 minute presentations on the analysis of any form of cultural production from Spain or Latin America that brings together a cultural studies approach to the representation of disability and ecology. Such papers might address, for example:

- tensions and synergies between spaces (urban, natural, accessible, etc.) and bodies (human, nonhuman, hybrid)
- replacement of extractive economic and cultural models that focus on quantitative measures of production and profit with new definitions of well-being that prioritize community, sufficiency (rather than abundance), and plurality of bodies and contributions
- the possibilities afforded by eco-crip cultural production to shift away from the normative approaches that pathologize disability and that greenwash ecological crises through techno-optimism
- the ways in which provisions of care through interspecies collaborations that provide emotional and physical support of disabled bodies may enhance human/more-than-human understanding and/or reinforce exploitative patterns

Please submit proposals of 150-250 words (in Word or PDF form) to slino@glendon.yorku.ca and maleone@assumption.edu by February 15th, 2023. Please include with your proposal a presentation title, your name, and affiliation. Contributors selected for this session must have an active membership in the Asociación Canadiense de Hispanistas.