The COVID-19 pandemic is still affecting the planet and made impossible to hold the CCRS 2020 meeting last March as scheduled. The organizing committee has decided to hold the CCRS 2020-2021 as our first Virtual Conference on March 26-27, 2021. Due to worldwide situation under COVID-19, we have therefore decided to change the format and operate the CCRS 2020-2021 as an online conference via Zoom.

Recent environmental disasters call attention to the timeliness of understanding humanity’s place within the natural landscape. Certainly, the burgeoning field of ecocriticism seeks to place the human as a component of the natural realm in order to transcend traditional Western epistemologies and decenter an anthropocentric understanding of the world. Nevertheless, the term “environment” has implications beyond the natural sphere. Stemming from the French word “environ,” this term speaks generally to that which surrounds us, opening larger conversations about how humans interact with, and are shaped by, the many different natural, discursive, spatial, and political environments within our world.

Contemporary events, including the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean, Women's rights movements such as Me Too or Ni una menos, and the fight for equality and visibility within the LGBTQI+ communities, and the current Covid-19 global pandemic, all call attention to how our environments control, morph, and (de-)value the body. Such events also evidence the need to rethink our relationships to concepts such as borders, gender construction, and human rights. In Romance Studies today, how can our explorations of literature, film, performance, and language nuance the role of humans as an element of these different environments?

The 25th annual Carolina Conference for Romance Studies aims to unpack how we, as a species, interact with different types of environments, and how these environments shape us. We invite professors, graduate students, scholars, and artists to share papers and presentations which decenter the human as master of the world, allowing us to analyze how we are products of the different politics, discourses, and events that have marked us since the dawn of the Anthropocene to the global era.
Topics of interest and approaches may include, but are not limited to:

- Animal Studies
- The Anthropocene
- Atmospheric Studies
- Biopolitics
- Cultural Studies
- Disability Studies
- Ecocriticism
- Film Theory
- Gender Studies
- Linguistic Studies
- Migration and Borders
- Medical Humanities
- (Post-) (De-)Colonial Studies
- (Post-)Humanism
- Racism and Xenophobia
- Urban Studies
- Virtual Spaces
- Visual Studies

Using the template below, please submit abstracts of 300 words to 2020ccrs@gmail.com by January 30, 2021. Also, participants who were accepted in the 2020 edition need to reconfirm their participation via email by December 15, 2020. Presentations may be conducted in English, Spanish, French, Italian, or Portuguese. In certain cases, submissions in English will be preferred, to facilitate the creation of panels based on common subject areas rather than language concentration. Panel proposals and roundtables are welcomed and should include a completed form from each participant. We also welcome creative writing submissions in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese.

Please submit a single-page Word document.
(See ccrs.unc.edu for more information.)

Name:
Email Address:
Affiliation:
Classification: (Professor, Ph.D. Student, M.A. Student, Post-doc, independent researcher, etc.)
Presentation Title:
Abstract (300 words, single-spaced):
Relevant Time Period(s) and Country(-ies):
Keywords (up to six):