

**29TH ANNUAL CAROLINA CONFERENCE FOR ROMANCE STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
MARCH 28-29, 2025**



**EXISTENCE AS RESISTANCE:
(EM)BODYING COUNTER-NARRATIVES IN THE HUMANITIES**



Existence as Resistance: (Em)bodying Counter-Narratives in the Humanities

29th Annual Carolina Conference for Romance Studies
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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Submission Deadline: December 13th, 2024

Resistance, as performed by both human and nonhuman entities, is a fundamental tool of self-assertion, advocacy, rebellion, and transformation that has an extensive history across many spaces, traditions, and eras within the Romance world. Stemming from the Latin word “resistere,” resistance has taken on a variety of meanings ranging from “opposition to a regime or ruling power,” to the more scientific application of “force exerted by a medium to retard motion through it”. Given its varied usage and historical significance, many scholars from a multitude of disciplines have sought to define resistance utilizing a diverse cast of frameworks. Sociologist Rebecca Raby centers power and agency as cornerstones for understanding resistance, philosopher Jane Bennet approaches resistance from an ecocritical lens by highlighting nonhuman participation in affecting change, and others yet such as Angela Davis, Cherie Moraga, Silvia Federici, and Tricia Hersey reconceptualize how resistance functions in the context of capitalism, racism, homophobia, and other modern forms of institutional oppression.

These scholarly discussions have led to the elaboration of various forms of resistance that transcend the dichotomy of violent and non-violent. Social, political, physical, economic, material, intellectual, and poetic/literary resistance are topics broached by many scholars and are widely acknowledged as manners by which both human and nonhuman entities can resist. As scholars within the humanities continue to create a more cohesive and profound vision of resistance, more questions continue to arise. What does it mean to resist and who/what are we resisting? Who is/who can participate in acts of resistance and how have humans and nonhumans alike participated in it or performed it? What is the interplay between resistance and existence, and does resistance always have to be conscious? How has the notion of resistance been reimagined with the dawn of climate change in the era of the anthropocene? How does resistance operate on a bodily level, particularly within the context of disability studies? Perhaps the most

pervasive and polemic question has pertained to methodology: should resistance efforts operate within our systems to affect change over time, or is a complete sociocultural, political, and/or economic revolution necessary in order to completely dismantle these systems?

The 29th annual Carolina Conference for Romance Studies invites undergraduate students, graduate students, professors, scholars, artists, and authors from any discipline to submit scholarly essays as well as other contributions such as works of visual, aesthetic and performance art, short films, creative writing, roundtable discussions, and/or workshops that address or investigate the theme of resistance as it pertains to the far-reaching Romance world. Potential fields, theoretical approaches, and topics of interest may include but are not limited to the following:

- A.I.
- Animal Studies
- Anthropocene
- Antihumanism
- Architecture
- Art History
- Biopolitics
- Border Studies/Migration
- Classical Antiquity
- Colonial, Decolonial, and Postcolonial Studies
- Counterculture/Cultural Movements
- Cultural Studies
- Disability Studies
- Ecocriticism
- Environmental Humanities
- Energy Studies
- Feminist Studies
- Film Studies
- Gender and Women's Studies
- History
- Indigenous Studies
- Linguistics
- Medical Humanities
- Memory Studies
- Modern Literature Studies
- Performance Studies
- Posthumanism
- Queer Studies
- Renaissance Studies
- Sexuality Studies
- Transatlantic Studies
- Transhumanism
- Urban Studies
- Violence and Trauma studies

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Please submit abstracts of up to 250 words using the submission form via the CCRS website (ccrs.unc.edu) by December 13th, 2024. We welcome papers submitted in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish; however, in certain cases, submissions in English will be preferred in order to facilitate the creation of panels based on common subject areas rather than language concentration. Panel proposals and roundtables that are language- and/or topic-specific are also welcomed, and each participant should individually complete a submission form. Please direct any questions to ccrs@unc.edu.

Submissions must include the following information:

- Name:
- Email Address:
- Affiliation:
- Classification: (Professor, Ph.D. Student, M.A. Student, Undergraduate Student, Post-doc, independent researcher, etc.)
- Presentation Title:
- Abstract (250 words, single-spaced):
- Relevant Time Period(s) and Country(-ies):
- Keywords (up to six):