Dante in the Americas, April 7-9, 2011
The literary appropriation of Dante over the last century has been enormous. His influence has been front and center in all major modern literary traditions—from T. S. Eliot to William Butler Yeats, from Albert Camus to Jean-Paul Sartre, from Jorge Luis Borges to Derek Walcott, from Giorgio Bassani to Giuseppe Ungaretti. Why such fascination? What are the textual characteristics of Dante's *Commedia* that make it an ideal vehicle for literary appropriation, thereby allowing it to enjoy a sustained cultural afterlife? What, moreover, are the more accidental factors (e.g., taste, world view, political agenda, religious, and mystical convictions) which account for the popularity of Dante—after 300 years of neglect during which the Florentine poet was relegated to the shadows of Petrarch and his works—among artists, novelists, poets, playwrights, and cinematographers? This symposium, co-organized by Professor Massimo Ciavolella (Italian, UCLA), Professor Efraín Kristal (Comparative Literature, UCLA), and Heather Sottong (Italian, UCLA), considers these questions, concentrating on Dante's influence in North America and especially in Latin America.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011**
**UCLA, ROYCE HALL 314**
4:00 Coffee and refreshments
4:30 Screening of Dante's *Inferno*, a film by Sandow Birk
6:00 Q & A with Sandow Birk, chaired by Massimo Ciavolella (UCLA)
6:30 Reception

**FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2011**
**UCLA, ROYCE HALL 314**
9:30 Coffee and pastries
10:00 Welcoming Remarks
Brian Copenhaver, Director, Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies (UCLA)
Massimo Ciavolella, Symposium Co-organizer (UCLA)
10:15 SESSION I — Chair: Andrew Hiltzik (UCLA)
“Mapping Dante's Studies in the Americas During the 21st Century”
Rossella Pescatori (El Camino College)
“H.W. Longfellow, Dante, and the Italians: Considerations on the First Fortune of Dante’s Divine Comedy”
Marco Veglia (University of Bologna)
“American Francesca: The Tour of a Romantic Myth from Rimini to New York City, 1816-1984”
Ferruccio Farina (University of Urbino)
12:30 Lunch Break

**SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2011**
**UCLA, ROYCE HALL 314**
9:30 Coffee and pastries
10:00 SESSION II — Chair: Nancy Silva (UCLA)
English translations are available for the first two papers.
“Irradiazioni di Dante nella letteratura ispanoamericana”
Raffaele Pinto (University of Barcelona)
“Dos Visiones Mexicanas del *Inferno*: Pedro Páramo de Juan Rulfo y La Gruta del Toscano de Ignacio Padilla”
Dulce Maria de Zúñiga (University of Guadalajara)
10:45 Coffee Break
11:00 “The Modern Poetics and Poetry: Dante and Octavio Paz”
Rossend Arquès (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
“Purgatorio in Three Latin American Writers: Jorge Luis Borges, Jorge Wiesse, and Tomás Eloy Martínez”
Efrain Kristal (UCLA)
12:15 Closing Remarks

Registration
Advance registration is not required. No admission fee. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parking
Please use the Self Service Pay Stations in UCLA Lots 2, 3 and 5. More parking information and maps are available online at http://map.ais.ucla.edu/go/portal/1002187

Need More Information?
Contact the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies cmrs@humnet.ucla.edu / 310-825-1880.

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Image: “Canto XXVI” by Sandow Birk, courtesy of Koplin Del Rio Gallery, Culver City CA