



* * CALL FOR PROPOSALS * *

California State University
Northridge

The Chicana/o Graduate Student Association at California State University, Northridge, is pleased to announce **Communities en Movimiento Encuentro: Cultivating the Politics of Listening and Sharing on the Fall Equinox, September 21st, 2007**

Our encuentro seeks to deflate the dichotomy of university space/community space, by focusing on already existing practices, networks, strategies, tools, and concepts, that subvert the binary division between "university" knowledge and space, and "community" knowledge and space. This focus seeks to "connect the dots" and recognize a different set of definitions for "community," "university," and "knowledge," definitions based on the fundamental awareness of a rich experience and history of radical spatial practices by Chican@s and other oppressed peoples. We recognize that these practices have always used creativity, imagination, performance, role-playing, conversation, storytelling, music, ceremony, and other art forms, to deconstruct the binary bases of dominant spaces, and to take the risks necessary to activate alternative, radical space. We also recognize that these practices function through the construction of networks of support that include multiple sites of knowledge production/exchange, and sharing of resources. This alternative space allows for connection, decolonization, re-humanization, and love and respect, and is based on a conscious engagement of all spaces as possible sites of resistance and learning, as well as on a fundamental understanding of all space as being connected. We invite participants to activate the space of the conference through a participatory, "active learner" approach with workshops, art, music, performance, discussion, sharing, and listening. In the indigenous spirit of inclusivity, the CSUN Chicana/o Graduate Student Association invites participation from all persons interested in working towards a raising of consciousness based on the fundamental resistance to, and rejection of, all forms of oppression, including neo-colonialism, capitalism, hierarchy, classism, homophobia, heterosexism, patriarchy, and all other forms of gender and sexuality oppression, as well as general and institutionalized racism, environmental racism, ecological destruction, and the oppression of indigenous peoples.

THEMES:

ART: performance; indigenous critical poetry; creative literature; music; teatro; invisible theater/theater of the oppressed; muralism; graffiti; Hip-Hop/spoken word; puppets; video and film; storytelling; visual; conceptual.

HEALTH: nutrition; holistic healing; spirituality; self-defense (personal, community, global—urban copwatch and urban resistance tactics and strategies, i.e., organizing, constructing barricades, first-aid; defending immigrant rights); environmental racism; psychological and emotional health; personal autonomy through health.

GENDER/SEXUALITY/LGBTIQ ISSUES: impact of capitalism and organized religion; sexual exploitation; strategies for survival/strategies for thriving; U.S. Third World feminism; identity issues; women in Latin America.

CULTIVATION: permaculture; food sovereignty; ecology; parenting (educational and community involvement; parents as students and organizers; single parenting; networks of parenting support); community gardens; cultivating autonomy.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION: indigenizing, de-institutionalizing, decolonizing the academy; problematizing concepts of "university," "knowledge," and "space"; resisting domestication; validating and connecting all forms and sites of knowledge production and exchange; media (representation, creation, manipulation, literacy); disrupting routines, institutions, structures, power; reclaiming/redefining/activating space; autonomy through knowledge and information.

COMMUNITY BUILDING: benefiting and building community; recognizing, foregrounding, connecting, and activating bridges/networks of support; participating in communities en movimiento; Zapatismo; problematizing concepts of "community"; grassroots organizing; La Otra Campaña; autonomy through local rooting and strategic globalization; immigration; resisting and subverting militarization (in school, media neighborhoods, everyday life).

FORMAT:

Encuentro activities will take place in a variety of formats which will overlap in a flexible setting designed for a cross-pollination of ideas, perspectives, communities, modes of expression, and spaces. Formats include, but are not limited to, paper and oral presentations, performances, and workshops. We are open to alternative and hybrid formats as well. We envision the involvement not only of graduate scholars and professors, but of youth, community college students, and other community members, grassroots activists and organizers, and artists and other cultural producers.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE (PROPOSAL DEADLINE AND PROCESS):

Deadline for proposal submissions is June 21, 2007. We encourage all interested individuals to submit proposal abstracts. Abstracts should include the specific topic/aim of the presentation or workshop, and should be 300 words or less. Please indicate equipment or other special needs. Please include a 200 word bio with contact information. Submit all information and questions to: cgsadecsun@hotmail.com, or mail to: Attn: CGSA, Chicana/o Studies Dept. 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330.

For updates, please check our website at: <http://www.csun.edu/~cgsa>.