

SURVIVING THE ANTHROPOCENE

October 14-15, 2022

Luskin Conference Center
UCLA campus, Los Angeles

SPECULATIVE FICTIONS FROM LATIN AMERICA'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURES

This symposium aims to take stock of Latin America's speculative fiction production—understood broadly as an umbrella term that includes a variety of genres, such as science fiction, horror, fantasy, and their subgenres and derivatives. *Surviving the Anthropocene* will address this broad production since the 20th century until the cyberpunk boom of the 1990s but, most importantly, will put the focus on the past decade, when both the writing and the scholarly study of Latin American speculative fictions have exploded. This cultural phenomenon has coincided with the emergence of a variety of discourses around the Anthropocene—a concept alluding to the current geological epoch in which the human has become a dominant force on the environment—that have attempted to make sense of the accelerated global ecological changes.

Broad framing questions include: What works, tendencies, preoccupations, and thematic axes comprise and characterize speculative fiction in/from Latin America during the era of the Anthropocene?



What are the contours of the local contexts—political, economic, social, and cultural—that inform and inspire the works produced? How have authors from the region imagined ecological transformation in the era of global warming and mass extinction?

Other questions that will be discussed include the increased visibility of women writers within speculative fictions; the place of the posthuman; the proliferation of Chicanx, Indigenous, and Afro-Latino futurisms; the points of contact between the “new weird”, the (neo)gothic, and the horror genres in the region; and the necessity to address the speculative production in less-studied areas of the continent such as Central America, the Caribbean (beyond Cuba), Paraguay, Colombia; among other topics.



Dr. Elizabeth Ginway
(University of Florida), author of *Cyborgs, Sexuality, and the Undead: The Body in Speculative Fiction from Mexico and Brazil* (2020), *Brazilian Science Fiction* (2004).



Alberto Chimal
Mexican author of *The Most Fragile Objects* (2020), *La noche de la Zona M* (2019), *La torre y el jardín* (2013), and finalist for the Rómulo Gallegos Prize of International Novel.

*All sessions open to the public. Presentations and discussions in English and Spanish