



**Call for Papers for the Conference:  
“Defending the Land: Socio-Environmental Conflicts in the Americas”**

In the face of profound uncertainties as to the future of planet Earth, the present historical moment calls for revisiting the multi-layered relationships that are at the origin of socio-environmental conflicts on a local, national, and global scale. In response to some of the most pressing issues of our time, the Latin American Studies program and the Department of Spanish Language and Literatures at Villanova University invites researchers, graduate students, educators, artists, and activists to submit their proposals in English or Spanish for its conference **Defending the Land: Socio-Environmental Conflicts in the Americas (April 22-23, 2022)**.

This call plans for an in-person conference, however, if the evolution of the global health situation does not allow this face-to-face meeting, we will move to online or hybrid participation.

The conference aims to examine from an interdisciplinary perspective how the transformation and degradation of the environment caused by the colonial enterprise that began in 1492 have shaped human ecologies across the Americas. To that end, the conference will open up a discussion of how colonialism, the commodification of nature, and economies of extraction and dispossession, frame discourses and practices immersed in the web of life.

The Organizing Committee welcomes individual papers, panel proposals, artists’ projects, and community-based initiatives in English and Spanish that engage with questions such as: What do current and past social-environmental conflicts say about the future of ecology and the environment in the Americas? How can grassroots movements as well as cultural, educational, and socio-political initiatives generate possible alternative futures? What are the different social responses to environmental degradation? The aim of this conference will thus be to reflect on and discuss the relationship between human ecology and planetary crisis.

Possible topics of the conference include but are not limited to:

- Ecologies of Hope and/or Environmental Initiatives for Reparation
- Extraction and Dispossession in the Americas
- Climate and Ecological Disasters
- World-Ecology and Social Ecology: Dialogues
- Women and Labor in a Time of Ecological Crisis
- Environmental Justice & Environmental Racism
- Climate & Environmental Refugees
- Ecocriticism
- Anthropocene/Capitalocene
- Native American Activism and Social Movements

Proposals should include a name (or names), a title, a short description of the proposed activity (200-250 words), and the institutional affiliation of the participants. The Organizing Committee strongly encourages submissions for panel proposals of 3-4 participants.

The deadline to submit proposals for individual presentations and panels is **January 31, 2022**. Please send proposals to [defendingtheland2022@gmail.com](mailto:defendingtheland2022@gmail.com).