

## The Borderlands of LatinX Poetics and Disability Studies

M. Soledad Caballero – moderator

As a cancer survivor, I will focus on how questions of “sickness” or “wellness” have intersected with my writing and how that writing has illuminated more questions for me about my identities as an immigrant and a “post-cancer” but not post-illness immigrant and writer. I will also frame the panel by briefly exploring what motivated me to organize this panel.

Jasminne Mendez

As an Afro-Latina living in a chronically ill and differently abled body, I have used writing to work through the questions I have about the body and its relationship to and effect on my art and my writing. I have found that in the works of women like Audre Lorde in the *Cancer Journals* and Gloria Anzaldúa in *Borderlands La Frontera*, women with intersectional identities often need to and decide to write in hybrid or multi genre form in order to grapple with and better articulate their experiences. At the same time, we live along the borderlands of language, well and un-well, poetry and prose so that one genre cannot contain all that our bodies and identities. As such, I will discuss the ways we toggle between the poetic imagination, personal narrative and lyrical prose in an effort to give voice to what does not use language to speak- the body itself.

Vanessa Angélica Villarreal

The border is the material expression of cruelty, and its image is the child. In this talk, I will be discussing colonial-racial trauma and psychic wounding, inherited/generational trauma, domestic and intimate partner violence, gendered violence, and its intersections with state and institutional violence. I will focus on childhood as the site of psychic wounding and its implications for mental health/mental illness, along with the invisibility of mental illness, depression, anxiety, and PTSD as "real" disabilities for people of color, especially queer/trans/women of color. I will also discuss the implications of traumatized children separated and detained at the border, and what that will mean for the future.

Carolina Ebeid

I will be talking about the disabilities that have been resulting in the past few years from multiple sclerosis, which is to say I will be talking about pain. My discussion will focus on what makes the connections between pain, writing, inherited anxiety & dis/ease, what it means when a clinical interiority is examined with magnetic imaging, and the environmental triggers that cause the body to attack itself.