

Commemorative activities and events in celebration of the centennial anniversary of writer Jose Maria Arguedas (Andahuaylas 1911 – Lima 1969) have been numerous and widespread during the month of January: special supplements in major newspapers, television programs and documentaries devoted to his life and work, round tables in several universities and cultural centers, and popular festivities in diverse regions of Peru. Not only have all cultural and academic institutions felt called to offer their homage, but identification with Arguedas's lifework has transcended the institutional domain, inspiring popular participation, and multiple independent artistic presentations. Even though official negotiations to name 2011 "the year of Arguedas" did not conclude successfully, it is an inescapable fact that his life and work have served as a "mirror" for all Peruvians to recognize themselves in their differences and similarities. Throughout all of these celebrations, the deep desire for equality and for a kind of integration that respects differences has become patent. Peru today is much closer to the country of Arguedas's dreams, more so than the country he left behind when he died in 1969.

It is encouraging, as well, to see events being organized to celebrate Arguedas's centennial in many countries throughout the world. This fact by itself suggests the universal significance of his lifework.

Our upcoming congress, while having an academic focus, will emphasize the fact that the centennial of Jose Maria Arguedas's birth commits us to a deeper reflection about the social transformations we are currently undergoing, and to measure the pulse of inter-cultural encounters in light of the Arguedian legacy.

## AN INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CONGRESS: MAJOR TOPICS

In light of the Arguedian legacy, this event seeks to explore the dynamics of cultural encounters in contemporary society from an interdisciplinary perspective, while promoting a reflection on the contributions of Andean culture to the global community.

The key themes proposed for the Congress are as follows:

1. Toward a Theory of Cultural Encounters and Clashes
2. Arguedas and the Hermeneutics of the Life World
3. Andean and Amazonic Legacies in Peru and the Americas Today
4. Public Affairs and Cultural Politics: Revisiting Arguedian Proposals
5. Arguedas and his Interlocutors: Artists, Intellectuals, Social Critics
6. Contemporary Reception of Arguedas's Work
7. Arguedas and the Arts: Music, Poetry, Painting, Drama, Film, Popular Art, Oral Storytelling
8. New Approaches to Arguedas's Life Work (Feminism, Phenomenology, Deconstruction, Critical Theory, etc.)
9. Documentary Sources about Arguedas
10. Arguedas and Pedagogy: Proposals for Education in the 21st Century
11. Translation, Transculturation, Transcreation: Challenges of the Arguedian Project
12. Arguedas and the Testimonial Genre
13. Arguedas's Approaches to the Religious Phenomenon

The organizing committee of the Congress will be collecting proposals (350-word abstracts) for individual presentations, as well as for panel presentations (3-4 papers).

**New submission deadline: March 31, 2011**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

To date, the following speakers have been included in the program:

Sara Castro-Karén  
Fernando de Szyszlo  
Fermín del Pino  
Ricardo González Vigil  
Carlos Iván Degregori  
Carlos Huamán  
Martin Lienhard  
Julio Ortega  
Alejandro Ortiz  
Edgardo Rivera  
William Rowe  
Ariel Dorfman  
Rodrigo Montoya

## OTHER SPEAKERS

Presentations submitted by the following candidates have been received to this date:

Diego Almada Pires (Brazil)  
Juan Ansión (Peru)  
Mauro Ayala (Peru)  
Enrique Bernales Albites (USA)  
Moisés Córdova (Peru)

Carla Dameane (Brazil)  
Rita De Grandis (Canada)  
Camila Daniel (Brazil)  
Philip Derbyshire (England)  
Alessandra Dibós (Peru)  
Jorge Escovar Galván (Peru)  
José Manuel Gilvonio (Peru)  
Alexandra Hibbett (England)  
Eduardo Huarag (Peru)  
Claudette Kemper Columbus (USA)  
John Kraniauskas (England)  
Diemo Langraff (Canada)  
Laura León Llerena (England)  
Fredy Machicao (Peru)  
Daniel Mathews (Chile)  
Lucas Palacios Liberato (Brazil)  
Ígor Órzhytskyi (Ukraine)  
Dante Ramírez La Torre (Peru)  
Sara Rondinel (Peru)  
Margarita Saona (USA)  
Rebecca Thompson (USA)  
Luis Valdiviezo (USA)

This was a great learning experience for all involved: Teachers learned to draw inspiration from the power and poetry of Arguedas's writings. The organizers discovered the affection and dedication teachers devote to their students.

As part of the activities of the congress, we will be inviting high-school students (sophomores, juniors, seniors from all over the country) to join in this contest, entitled "The Defiance of Jose Maria Arguedas" – which shall include short stories, testimonial accounts, and comics. The hope is to challenge young people to tell stories that society would otherwise tend to hide or repress.

In order to participate, these students' professors must take an online training workshop entitled "Sowing Arguedas," the methodology of which was developed during the teacher training course held in January. With this workshop, professors will discover ways of teaching their students to write eye-opening and powerful stories.

## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

### TEACHER TRAINING AND SHORT STORY CONTEST

During the week of January 10-15, 2011, a teacher-training course was held for the faculty at Colegio Fe y Alegría No. 4 of San Juan de Lurigancho, in charge of Professor Carla Sagástegui, from the Pontifical Catholic University.