

Editor's Note

In October 2023, a small but dynamic group of scholars gathered in Winchester, VA, for the first in-person meeting of MIFLC since the 2019 conference at Auburn University. We are immensely grateful to the organizing committee from Shenandoah University: former president Bryan Pearce-Gonzales, Adela Borrallo-Solís, Andrea Meador Smith, and student interns Kayla Maxson and Olivia O'Grady. Thanks to their efforts, we were once again reminded of what this organization represents: a vibrant academic community committed to scholarly innovation that also values warm, collegial interactions when we gather to share our work. The articles that follow, in this twenty-third volume of the *MIFLC Review*, emerged from the research presented in community at Shenandoah University.

The Ulloa Award, which recognizes the lifelong contribution of Professors Leonor and Justo Ulloa to the journal and the organization, will be announced at the 2024 meeting at East Tennessee State University. The recipient, Dr. Andia Augustin-Billy, is Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies at Centenary College of Louisiana, and her article on interracial intimacy in nineteenth-century creole literature should not be missed.

I am indebted to our managing associate editor, Dr. Eunice Rojas, our readers, and our copyeditors, all of whom continue to invest in the growth, development, and integrity of the journal. Many thanks also to the three authors of this year's book reviews. Their pieces enable us to engage with the recently published monographs of our colleagues in the organization.

Finally, the staff of *MIFLC Review* want to acknowledge that many of our current and former members live in the regions most affected by Hurricane Helene. Our hearts go out to those suffering from the storm's damage. We know that you are not only working to rebuild your own lives, but also to support your students, your colleagues, your neighbors, your families.

On behalf of the editorial board, thank you for your continued support of this publication. We are excited to see you at East Tennessee State University this November and, for those of you who cannot be with us, we look forward to the next time our paths cross.

With gratitude,



Andrea Meador Smith

October 2024