

Conference Report, and Accounts

Science, Politics, Art: Re-visioning Cesar Vallejo in the 21st Century University College London

Short Description of Conference

The Centre of César Vallejo Studies at University College London held an international conference on the work of the great Peruvian poet, César Vallejo, on 16-17 March 2012, commemorating the 120th anniversary of his birth on 16 March 1892. The theme of the colloquium was “Science, Politics, Art: Re-visioning César Vallejo in the 21st Century”. The conference is grateful for the support of the Society of Latin American Studies.

Report on the Conference

The Conference was held in the Haldane Room on 16 March and the Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre on 17 March. The conference programme combined academic lectures and papers on the work of César Vallejo along with events with a broader appeal (see enclosed conference publicity). Michelle Clayton (UCLA), William Rowe, FBA (Birkbeck), and Eduardo González-Viaña (Western Oregon University) gave three plenary lectures; Professor Miguel Angel Zapata was, unfortunately, unable to attend because of illness. Seven papers were given, by Dominic Moran (Oxford University), Paloma Yannakakis (Cornell University), Carlos Fernández & Valentino Gianuzzi (UCL, a joint paper), Adam Feinstein (Neruda’s official biographer), Adam Sharman (Nottingham University), Stephen M. Hart (UCL) and Carlos Henderson (Association des Amis de César Vallejo, Paris). Complementing the academic component the conference organised a photographic exhibition held in the Haldane Room (‘120 Years of César Vallejo’), screened two films inspired by Vallejo’s work (*Vallejo Forever* directed by Santi Zegarra and *Paco Nunca* directed by Manuel Arenas), hosted a poetry reading (William Rowe, Paloma Yannakakis, Carlos Fernández and Carlos Henderson), and a theatrical dramatization of two of Vallejo’s poems, ‘Masa’ and ‘Trilce LXXV’ (interpreted by Aurora Colina). The conference was inaugurated by the Peruvian Ambassador, and the Peruvian Embassy generously funded the reception. The conference had excellent attendance (there were 50+ attendees on Friday 16 March and 40+ on Saturday 17 March), and excellent feedback was received from attendees. As a result of this conference Stephen Hart has been invited to give a lecture at the International Conference on Vallejo which will be held at the Casa de la Literatura Peruana in Lima on 4-6 July 2012. The exhibition ‘120 Years of Cesar Vallejo’ was such a success that it will be re-exhibited in Madrid in the summer. The conference also led to a strengthening of academic ties between Peruvian, UK and US scholars working on Vallejo’s work; the Association des Amis de César Vallejo donated an oil painting, “Vallejo sentado”, by Patricia Moll, to the Centre of César Vallejo Studies in London as a symbol of the strengthening of international links. The level of the academic lectures and papers was extremely high and the decision has been taken to publish the proceedings of the conference in the Monograph Series of the Centre of César Vallejo Studies in 2013.