

2009

An Unwaivering Commitment to Dialogue

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Recommended Citation

Masud-Piloto, Félix (2009) "An Unwaivering Commitment to Dialogue," *Diálogo*: Vol. 12 : No. 1 , Article 1.
Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/dialogo/vol12/iss1/1>

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Cover Page Footnote

This article is from an earlier iteration of *Diálogo* which had the subtitle "A Bilingual Journal." The publication is now titled "Diálogo: An Interdisciplinary Studies Journal."

AN UNWAIVERING COMMITMENT TO DIALOGUE



Félix Masud-Piloto
EDITOR

Dialógo No. 12 focuses on Latino/a sexuality, a topic considered by some as too controversial, sensitive, political, unpopular, taboo, and even unacceptable to discuss in a public forum. All good reasons for Diálogo to provide a forum for serious, frank, uncensored, and rigorous discussions of this important, but often neglected and ignored topic.

Diálogo was created to address, debate, and analyze all issues affecting Latin America and Latinos in the United States, regardless of their controversial nature, unpopularity, or political explosiveness. From its inception, our Editorial Board has actively recruited and encouraged scholars, artists, students, and community activists, to lead us in the many, often difficult, but always fruitful and constructive dialogues facilitated in these pages. With that in mind, I am delighted to welcome Professor Lourdes Torres as Guest Editor for this issue. A respected scholar and gay rights activist, she has selected a group of informative and provocative essays, poems, and art to help us explore Latino/a sexuality in all its complexities and diversity. I am certain that the contents of this Diálogo will serve as a point of reference and framework for many future discussions on the topic. For that, I am grateful to Professor Torres and the authors featured in this issue.

With the publication of Diálogo No.12, I conclude my tenure as the publication's Editor, so I would like to take the opportunity to thank all who for the past thirteen years contributed their talent, creativity, and experience to make this publication what it is today, a well respected and solidly established forum for open and uncensored discussions, analyses, dialogues and debates of the most pressing issues of our times.

Conceived as a regional publication, Diálogo has developed into a national and international forum, with a large network of contributors and subscribers. To our satisfaction, most issues and many of our published articles have been adopted for use as texts in numerous high school and college courses, a good indicator of our contribution to today's growing interest and debate on Latino affairs. Another important aspect of Diálogo's development and

growth is our close and fruitful collaboration/partnership with Revista Contratiempo, the region's premier Spanish language magazine. Like Diálogo, Contratiempo is committed to publishing a wide spectrum of articles on Latin American and Latino realities, and also has a regional, national and international presence. Personally, I am honored to have contributed to this mutually beneficial collaboration as a member of the magazine's Board of Directors and writer.

Diálogo has enjoyed great success during its first twelve years of life, but there is much work ahead, as it continues growing and perfecting this delicate but most necessary art of dialogue. But despite our success, fulfilling our mission has never been easy, as we faced the challenges of operating with a small budget and limited resources, establishing our credibility and visibility, and attracting talented writers and analysts on a voluntary basis. Paradoxically, those challenges have made Diálogo better and stronger. Thus I will remain eternally grateful to our many collaborators and readers for their trust in and support of our mission to always welcome and publish works that address issues from diverse perspectives, respect all opinions, and accept analyses that stimulate important and necessary discussions and dialogues in academia and the community. For that, my job has always been joyful and rewarding. It has been a true privilege and honor to contribute to this useful, constructive, and timely endeavor.

In closing, I would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate the life and work of Mario Benedetti, one of Latin America's most important poets and writers, who passed away in his native Montevideo on May 17. A tireless and courageous political activist, Benedetti dedicated his life to the struggles in favor of human rights, social justice, national liberation, and solidarity. As homage to this great human being, and as a gift to our readers, I leave you with one of his most emblematic poems that speaks of his unshakable faith in humanity and his unconditional support for the millions of anonymous men and women who work daily to create a better world for all. *A better world is possible!*