

CLAS Events – Easter Term 2026

Thursday 14 May - 12:30pm | Book presentation

Room S1, First Floor, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DA, Cambridge, UK

The Gendered Front: Latin American Women's Cultural Agency during WWII

Speaker: [Vanessa Miseres](#) (University of Notre Dame)

Chair: [Stephanie Rohner](#) (University of Cambridge)

Abstract:

This presentation will analyze the crossings between antifascist politics and culture in the work and exchanges among Latin American women intellectuals such as Gabriela Mistral and Victoria Ocampo during and after World War II. The war in Europe altered Latin American socio-political parameters and forced these authors to redraw the map of Western civilization by placing Latin American women and their work as cultural agents rooted in feminist principles at the center. Through their cultural endeavors, Mistral and Ocampo were able to shift power dynamics and created a political impact in the region beyond the symbolic domain. From a “gendered front”, these authors worked in the dissemination of *americanismo* in the Western World while discussing in essays, letters, and conferences the failure of European democracy.

About the Speaker:



Vanessa Miseres is an Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Notre Dame, specializing in 19th- and early 20th-century Latin American literature with a focus on women's cultural history, women writers, and feminism. She is the author of *Mujeres en tránsito: viaje, identidad y escritura en Sudamérica* (2017), *Gender Battles. Latin American Women, War, and Feminism* (2025), and the co-editor of *Food Studies in Latin American Literature: Perspectives on the Gastronarrative* (2021).

GENDER BATTLES

*Latin American Women,
War, and Feminism*



VANESA MISERES

UTP

[Gender Battles. Latin American Women, War, and Feminism](#)

Vanesa Miseres (Author)