

AHGBI VISITING INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP 2025-2026

FINAL REPORT

Visiting Fellow: Dr. Juan G. Ramos, College of the Holy Cross (USA)

Host: Dr. Luis Medina Cordova, University of Birmingham (UK)

Dates of the visit: 22 March – 4 April 2026

1) Summary:

The Department of Modern Languages at the University of Birmingham was pleased to host Dr. Ramos as an AHGBI Visiting International Fellow in 2026. During his visit, Dr. Ramos collaborated closely with Dr. Medina Cordova on shared research interests in contemporary Latin American literature, with particular attention to Ecuadorian production.

The fellowship included visits to three UK universities (Lancaster, Birmingham, and King's College London), where Dr. Ramos and Dr. Medina Cordova engaged with colleagues at different career stages—from PGR students to professors—and across disciplinary fields in the Humanities and Social Sciences. This focus on Ecuadorian literary culture helped to identify potentially new avenues for inquiry within Hispanism in the UK and Ireland, advancing research in a national literature that remains largely underdeveloped, showcasing methodological and research questions extending to other parts of Latin America, and laying the groundwork for future international collaboration.

2) Activities undertaken:

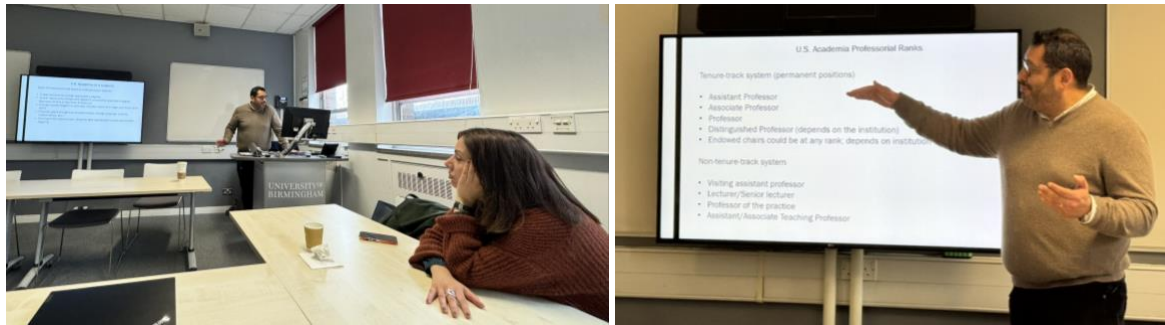
Lancaster, 24 March. Panel “Interrogating the Andino in Contemporary Ecuadorian Literature”, AHGBI Annual Conference, University of Lancaster

Dr. Ramos and Dr. Medina Cordova participated in a panel alongside Miss Zoe Spencer (University of Exeter) to present recent research on contemporary Ecuadorian literature. The panel was well attended, providing an opportunity to share three papers and to foster discussion on 21st-century Ecuadorian literary culture within a leading forum for Hispanism in the UK.



Birmingham, 27 March. Workshop: “Job Market, Research Collaboration, and Funding Opportunities in U.S. Academia”, University of Birmingham

Dr. Ramos delivered a workshop outlining the fundamentals of the US academic landscape, aimed at helping UK-based scholars identify opportunities for collaboration as well as major funding schemes, including grants, fellowships, and institutional programmes. The session also addressed how to assess which opportunities are most appropriate at different career stages. The workshop benefited early-career researchers at the University of Birmingham, who were able to gain further insight through one-to-one conversations with Dr. Ramos, Chair of Spanish at the College of the Holy Cross.



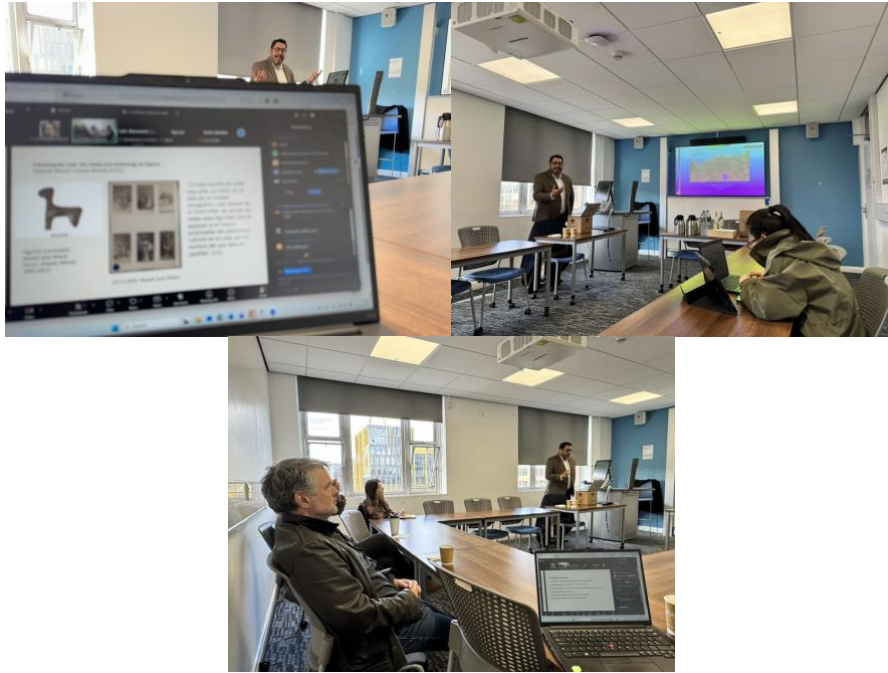
London, 30 March. Roundtable: “Lo Andino: Provocations Across Disciplines”, King’s College London

Dr. Ramos and Dr. Medina Cordova joined a group of interdisciplinary scholars working on the Andes for a public roundtable exploring the multiple meanings of the “Andino” category. Dr. Jelke Boesten (King’s College London) chaired the discussion, which included contributions from Dr. Elisa Sampson Vera Tudela, Dr. Phoebe Martin and Dr. Juan Carlos Mantilla (all King’s College London), as well as Dr. Andrea Espinoza Carvajal (University of Bristol).



Birmingham, 31 March. Lecture: “Andean Gothic Ecologies: Environmental Crisis, Political Violence, and Literary Form”, University of Birmingham

Dr. Ramos delivered a public lecture on his latest research on South American Gothic literature, examining the configurations of “lo andino” beyond its conventional association with the Andean highlands and Indigenous subjectivities. The lecture was offered in a hybrid format and attracted not only staff and students based at Birmingham but also audiences across the UK, the US and Latin America, following its circulation through specialised mailing lists and academic networks.



3) Future Projects

Dr. Medina Cordova and Dr. Ramos have agreed to collaborate on future initiatives to expand research on Andean literature. These include:

- a) organising a panel for the 2027 conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) in Mexico City;
- b) arranging a research visit by Dr. Medina Cordova to the College of the Holy Cross and neighbouring universities on the US West Coast in 2027;
- c) developing a joint research grant proposal on Latin American Gothic, potentially targeting an AHRC Catalyst Award, with Dr. Medina Cordova as lead applicant and Dr. Ramos as project partner.

The International Visiting Fellowship has been a valuable opportunity for Dr. Ramos, Dr. Medina Cordova, and the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Birmingham. During his visit, Dr. Ramos contributed actively to the department's research culture, attending research and teaching events as well as wider departmental activities. The fellowship supported the development of new academic networks and provided a strong foundation for future collaboration.

Birmingham, 13 March 2026

Dr. Luis Medina Cordova, University of Birmingham

Dr. Juan Ramos, College of the Holy Cross