This symposium is intended to signal some of the areas in which UCLA specialists in the study of the Americas can engage in productive collaborations with our counterparts in the network of French universities actively involved with the Institut des Amériques (IdA).

The Institut des Amériques (IdA) was launched in March 2007 with the support of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). With more than sixty French higher education institutions and research institutes, the IdA coordinates studies on the Americas in the Humanities and Social Sciences, encouraging trans-American and interdisciplinary approaches. One of the central charges of the IdA is the development of an interdisciplinary network of advanced studies and research in the humanities and social sciences in Europe and Latin America, and the United States. The relationship with UCLA would be the 12th of its kind.

Our symposium will feature a graduate student panel representing the fields of Anthropology, History, Film Studies, and Comparative Literature; and a faculty roundtable, which will be an opportunity for two UCLA Professors to engage in a dialogue with a French counterpart on the topic of US-Mexico Border studies, featuring sociological, anthropological, public health, and literary perspective.

The inaugural event will be capped by a ceremony featuring the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding summarizing the basis of our future collaborations.
2 p.m. Opening Remarks
Efrain Kristal - Professor and Chair, Department of Comparative Literature, UCLA

2.15 p.m. Graduate Student Round Table « Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences on the Americas »
Moderator: Amandine DeBruyker - Institut des Amériques, Hub of Cooperation Coordinator - Aix-Marseille Université (Idemec)
Antoine Guégan - Doctoral Student, Université Paris Est
« From Uncle Tom’s Cabin to 12 Years a Slave. Representations of slavery in the American Cinema (1903-2013) »
Jenny Marie Forsythe - Doctoral Student, Department of Comparative Literature, University of California, Los Angeles
« Contested Space in Translation: Visions and Revisions of Florida in Early Modern Europe »
Fernando Serrano - Doctoral Student, Department of History, University of California, Los Angeles
« To Be or Not to Be: Indigenous Presence and Ethnic Identity in Colonial Guanajuato »

3.15 p.m. Coffee Break

3.30 p.m. Faculty Round Table « U.S.-Mexico Border: Migration, Transnationalism and Sovereignty »
Moderator: David Hayes Bautista - Distinguished Professor of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA. Director, Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture
Rubén Hernández-León - Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, UCLA. Director, Center for Mexican Studies
« Mexican Migration to the Carpet Capital of the World: Lessons from Two Decades of Research »
Frédéric Saumade - Professor, Department of Anthropology, Aix-Marseille Université. Institut d’ethnologie méditerranéenne, européenne et comparative (Idemec)
« How do the Peculiarities of Southern Californian Landscape Favor a Discrete Process of a Reconquest by Mexican Immigrants? Charreada and Jaripeo as a Paradigm of the Bordering Complex »
Maarten Van Delden - Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, UCLA
« The U.S.-Mexico Border in Contemporary Literary and Cultural Criticism »

5 p.m. Break

5.10 p.m. Ceremony celebrating the collaboration between Institut des Amériques and University of California, Los Angeles
Jacques Pothier - Professor, Université de Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines.
Jean-Michel Blanquer - President of the Institut des Amériques (Video message)
Kevin Terraciano - Director of the Latin American Institute

5.45 p.m. Reception