



Walls Symposium
February 15-17, 2009
Holt Conference Center, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas
Free and open to the public

The Walls Symposium, hosted by the peaceCENTER, Trinity University and Texans for Peace, is for academics, activists and students. It is not about any particular wall or even about purely physical walls, but rather a deep conversation about why humans build walls and a critical exploration about what walls mean in our personal and civic lives.

The Walls Symposium defines “wall” in the broadest possible sense: not only tangible walls but also metaphysical and metaphorical walls, borders, fences, hedges, edges, limits and divisions. Where there are walls there are also gates, doors and windows. Walls can be built, torn down, climbed and breached. Walls have ears; there’s a “fly on the wall.” People can be inside the wall, outside the wall, on the wall, up against the wall, driven up the wall, beat their heads against walls. Walls can divide; walls can protect. There’s a wall being built between the United States and Mexico; the human heart has a three-layered wall: the myocardium, epicardium and endocardium. The poet Robert Frost ended his famous poem with the line, “good fences make good neighbors,” but it begins, “Something there is that doesn’t love a wall.”

More than twenty sessions are scheduled, ranging from the environmental impact of the U.S.-Mexico Border Wall and how women communicate across the Israel/Palestine Wall, to sessions on religion and walls, psychology and walls, architecture and walls and art and walls.

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Dr. Jorge Bustamante, will speak at the conclusion of the symposium, on Tuesday, February 17 at 7 pm at Chapman Auditorium. Dr. Bustamante’s talk is hosted by the MAS Program at Trinity University. The symposium opens on Sunday, February 15, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. with a reception and juried art exhibit.

Partners in the Walls Symposium include: peaceCENTER, Trinity University, Texans for Peace, St. Mary’s University, Texas Lutheran University, University of the Incarnate Word, MAS Program at Trinity, AtticRep, Amnesty International — Trinity University Chapter, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word Sisters — U.S. Justice & Peace Committee, Border Ambassadors, No Border Walls, Pax Christi San Antonio, We The People News, University of Texas at San Antonio, Department of Criminal Justice, SoL Center at University Presbyterian Church, PRO-SA, the International Academy of Design and Technology and Viva! Bookstore.

For more information, including a complete schedule, visit www.salsa.net/peace/walls; call the peaceCENTER at 210-224-HOPE or e-mail wallsymposium@gmail.com.