

Let's Talk About the Humanities

Erotic Archival Entanglements: Memory Projects of the “Obscene” in Greater Mexico

March 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM ET

with Zeb Tortorici

Associate Professor, Spanish and Portuguese, New York University

This talk theorizes the notion of erotic archival entanglements in Greater Mexico by tracing connections between categories of the “obscene” and the “pornographic” across time, from the 18th century to the present. Focusing first on the now-absent confiscated artifacts from the archives of the late colonial Mexican Inquisition—explicit drawings, prints, statues, and clocks—the talk will examine how such objects entered and exited multiple hands, collections, and (temporary) resting places. Additionally, the talk will explore how such movements resonate with how vintage historical erotica today travels among flea markets, bookshops, private collections, museums, and historical archives with a focus on a Mexico City-based grassroots archival initiative.

Progressive Christianity Amid U.S. Polarizing Realities

April 19, 2023 at 1:00 PM ET

with Xochitl Alvizo

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, California State University, Northridge

This talk will present a segment of progressive Christian communities that intentionally seek to disrupt and counter the harmful elements of heterosexism, racism, and dogmatism embedded in its inherited theologies, systems, and structures. This emerging Christianity occurs as a result of experiences of harm and trauma, particularly at the hands of white evangelicalism and systemic sexual abuse within an array of Christian denominations. Social movements such as Black Lives Matter and #MeToo have challenged Christianity in the U.S. toward greater left-leaning activism that center the voices of people of color, women, queer, and trans persons. The talk will capture the emerging elements of progressive Christianity actively taking shape amidst these social movements and the current issues polarizing the political and religious landscape of the United States. It will also provide recommendations for religious communities seeking to implement a more active social and politically engaged Christianity that counters the harmful impact of its more radically conservative expressions.

All talks are free to the general public and will be held virtually on Zoom.

For more information, please visit: <https://cmsi.gse.rutgers.edu/humanities-talks>



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