



2022 IRWG/RACKHAM

COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

September 23 • Friday • 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Koessler Room (3rd floor), Michigan League



SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

10:00 - 10:10 AM: Opening Remarks, **Victor Román Mendoza**, Associate Professor, Women's and Gender Studies and English

10:10 - 11:30 AM: **Panel 1, Ambivalent Self-Making: Embodiment, Institutions, Empire**

- Panel Chair: **Abigail Dumes**, Assistant Professor, Women's and Gender Studies
- Panelists: **Hayley R. Bowman, Haley Bowen, Luis Flores, Janice Feng**

11:30 - 12 PM: **Lunch (provided)**

12:00 - 1:20 PM: **Panel 2, Identifying and Responding to Symbolic Annihilation**

- Panel Chair: **Andrea Bolivar**, Assistant Professor, Women's and Gender Studies
- Panelists: **Pau Nava, Leanna Papp, DeAnna Smith, Paloma Contreras**



MODERATOR

VICTOR ROMÁN MENDOZA

Victor is Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and English in the College of LSA. Victor is also a faculty associate in the Department of American Culture, the Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies Program, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and IRWG, and serves as the faculty advisor and facilitator for the Community of Scholars program.



PANEL 1 CHAIR

ABIGAIL DUMES

Abigail is Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, and author of *Divided Bodies: Lyme Disease, Contested Illness, and Evidence-Based Medicine* (Duke University Press, 2020).

PANEL 2 CHAIR

ANDREA BOLIVAR

Andrea is Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies. She is completing a manuscript entitled "We Are a Fantasy:" Trans Latina Ways of Knowing, Being, and Loving, which ethnographically examines the experiences of sex working transgender Latinas in the Chicago metropolitan area.



PANEL I PARTICIPANTS



HAYLEY R. BOWMAN

Postdoctoral Fellow, Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies

Transcendence, Embodiment, and Perception in Early Modern Spanish Mysticism

This paper examines early modern Spanish mysticism through the lens of Sor María de Jesús de Ágreda, a Franciscan nun and eventual abbess of the Convento de la Concepción in Ágreda, Spain. Sor María rose to prominence in the 1630s due to reports of her ability to "bilocate," or be in two places simultaneously. Investigations by religious officials and the Holy Office of the Inquisition revealed that Sor María made over 500 "visits" to preach to the Jumanos, a group of Indigenous peoples in northernmost New Spain, in the region of New Mexico. I contextualize Sor María's abilities to transcend time and space in larger premodern understandings of mystical embodiment and perception in Counter-Reformation Spain to argue that her remarkable experiences emerged from an established hagiographic legacy of sororial dialogues and her medieval foremothers.



HALEY E. BOWEN

Ph.D. Candidate, History, College of LSA

Before Disability: Monstrosity and Impairment in the Early Modern Convent

This paper presents an episode in the life of Marie-Anne Taxis, a woman with dwarfism who lived at the Feuillantine convent in eighteenth-century Paris. When Taxis attempted to leave the convent to marry at the age of thirty-four, her relatives obtained an order for her imprisonment, arguing that her small size and 'deformity' ought to prevent her from entering into a sacramental union. Deprived of legal personhood as a result of her 'monstrous' and 'unnatural' body, Taxis fought to reclaim her autonomy. This article traces this struggle, contextualizing it within the intersecting discourses of monstrosity and unnaturalness that governed others' perception of her capacities and legal powers.

PANEL I PARTICIPANTS



LUIS FLORES

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology, College of LSA

Legalizing Work From Home: Industrial Homework and the Social Limits of "Breadwinner Liberalism"

In the 1980s, garment labor organizers concerned with immigrant sweatshops, Reagan administration labor regulators, and middle-class women, clashed over the significance and desirability of resurgent "home-based" work. This chapter traces the clashes and inversions of gender ideology and conceptions of racialized economic informality as the federal administration sought to lift a New Deal-era ban on industrial homework while promoting women-led home enterprises in the 1980s and 1990s. Flores argues that the social contradictions embedded in the protective legislation of "breadwinner liberalism" shaped conservative market ideology and labor strategy as federal labor restructuring re-drew the boundaries between home and market.



JANICE FENG

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science, College of LSA

The Desire to Suffer? Asceticism, Piety, and Indigenous Women's Self-Making in Seventeenth-Century Nouvelle-France

In this essay I closely examine colonial archival sources to reconstruct such practices and attend to Indigenous women's ascetic practices to show the meaning-making, self-making, and world-making capacity of such practices. I argue that Indigenous women's ascetic practices show us a creative and productive way of being-in-the-world and being-with-others. These acts, as I will show, point to rupture and displacement, and can challenge colonial domination aimed at disciplining bodies and cultivating desire, showing us how colonial power was both embodied and contested, or rather contested through embodiment.

PANEL 2 PARTICIPANTS



PAU NAVA

Ph.D. Candidate, American Culture, College of LSA

Corazonada: Care and the Circulation of the Diana Solis Collection

In dialogue with affect theory and Chicana feminist praxis, an archival corazonada refers to the intimate act of collecting records within marginalized communities that in their culmination serve as

documentary evidence of counterhistories challenging dominant narratives of local history. This moves beyond physical repositories and extends the archival understanding of a record to include the voices of elders, muralism, and intergenerational dialogue alongside the circulation of art from the 1970s-1980s. This paper explores lessons learned from archiving Chicago artist Diana Solis's photography collection as part of the *Chicana por mi raza* digital archive. Coined by Solis, an archival corazonada inspires expansive archival practices within queer community that illustrate the important connections between artists and personal recordkeeping within the Chicana/o movement.



LEANNA PAPP

Ph.D. Candidate, Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies, College of LSA

"They have no respect for our bodies": Young women's explanations for sexualized aggression at the beginning and end of college

Young people view sexualized aggression as a natural and expected, yet often unwanted, aspect of nightlife. I interviewed 15 undergraduate women during their first and fourth years at a large, public university in the Midwest United States about their experiences with and perceptions of sexualized aggression in social drinking spaces. I found that participants made sense of sexualized aggression by drawing on cultural discourses about gender, sexual assault, and university social environments, and I will discuss changes in how and when these discourses were utilized.

PANEL 2 PARTICIPANTS



DEANNA SMITH

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology, College of LSA

Shuffle Out, Shuffle In: Middle-Class Black Mothers' Responses to Child Protective Services Reports

Researchers have shown how contact with punitive state authorities shapes the lives of poor Black mothers but have paid less attention to the role of punitive state authorities in the lives of Black middle-class mothers. Drawing on in-depth, open-ended interviews with 29 middle-class Black mothers who have recently been investigated by Child Protective Services (CPS)—a punitive state institution with the ability to terminate parental rights—this article asks how Black mothers who are not poor assess risk of future CPS contact and navigate the threats it poses. Armed with far greater resources than poor mothers, middle-class Black mothers use a variety of strategies to prevent future CPS contact—among them, a resource-intensive evasion strategy that involves shuffling their children out of certain types of institutions and into others.



PALOMA CONTRERAS

Ph.D. Candidate, Biological Anthropology, College of LSA

"Sometimes I feel desperate, but then I get used to it": Perceptions of water scarcity and the embodiment of distress in Mexico City

In Mexico City, the number of households connected to the public water supply has rapidly increased over the last three decades. Still, with almost 22 million inhabitants, the metropolitan area of the Valley of Mexico is constantly threatened by water scarcity. This study explores whether the perception of water scarcity is a socio-environmental exposure that impacts women's health. Using qualitative data from 60 working-class households across Mexico City, this study reflects on women's lived experiences of water uncertainty and shows the different ways through which fear of water scarcity constitutes a source of distress. While expanding the coverage of piped water is important, this study reveals the extent to which intermittent, unpredictable water supply, and fear of water scarcity are concerns that can impact well-being.

The IRWG/Rackham Community of Scholars Fellowship is a highly competitive program for PhD candidates from across the Ann Arbor campus. In spring, the fellows participate in a weekly seminar designed to foster cross-disciplinary dialogue and peer reviews of a dissertation chapter or article. Over the summer, the scholars continue their research and writing. They reconvene for the annual Community of Scholars Symposium to share the product of their summer's work with each other and a broader audience.

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