Dean’s Speaker Series in New Directions in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies

This presentation uses the notion of “terripelago” to comparatively analyze the concept of a colonial territory, as proposed by Walter Mignolo, against the notion of territory, as defined in the U.S. through both the Insular Cases and the territorial clause in the U.S. Constitution (Article IV, section 3, clause 2). After linking territoriality and colonialism, Dr. Martínez-San Miguel will briefly comment on the Puerto Rican island of Culebra and its contemporary imaginary after years of U.S. military occupation. The presentation will close with a discussion of the ways in which archipelagic thinking can interrupt and transform traditional conceptualizations of colonial overseas possessions.

Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel is Professor in the Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies and the Program of Comparative Literature at Rutgers University. Some of her books include: Caribe Two-Ways?: cultura de la migración en el Caribe insular hispánico (Callejón, 2003); From Lack to Excess: ‘Minor’ Readings of Latin American Colonial Discourse (Bucknell, 2008), and Coloniality of Diasporas: Rethinking Intra-Colonial Migrations in a Pan-Caribbean Context (Palgrave, 2014). Her most recent research uses comparative archipelagic studies as a historical and theoretical framework to study cultural productions in the Caribbean between 1498 and 2010.

For more information: www.binghamton.edu/comparative-literature/

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