MUSIC, POWER, AND SIGNIFICATION: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL READING OF RACE IN NEW SPAIN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019
2:00-3:30 PM • LAII CONFERENCE ROOM

In New Spain, an institutional structure of merit and promotion hinged on the idea of reason as an intrinsically European attribute. This attribute differentiated ‘Europeans’ from people of mixed race claiming European status based on their skin complexion. Given the affective impulses permeating ideas about reason in New Spain, this paper considers reason in light of musico-phenomenological strategies that racialized subjects used to re-write their bodies. Such process problematizes the philosophical purview of the Enlightenment’s civilizing mission, and the historical narrative of its political project.

PRESETER: Jesús Ramos-Kittrell
The work of Professor Jesús Ramos-Kittrell analyzes the relationship of cultural phenomena to the socio-political structures that organize and co-produce them. Such processes interrogate power asymmetries affecting issues of social, political, and cultural representation. His published work covers the early modern period in the Americas and more current cultural analyses of globalization. Previously, Dr. Ramos-Kittrell has served as joint faculty of musicology, ethnomusicology and Latin American Studies at Tulane University and Southern Methodist University. His is currently assistant professor in residence of musicology at the University of Connecticut.

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