YARÍ PÉREZ MARÍN
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“New World Bodies: Anatomy and Physiology in Early Colonial Mexican Texts”

Monday
October 19, 2009
4:00 - 5:30 pm
Hagstrum Room
university hall 201
Evanston Campus
reception to follow

This talk seeks to outline the limits of a normative notion of the body in Mexican print culture during the last third of the sixteenth century. We will look at a selection of texts—from surgical manuals and travel narratives to formally-structured treatises—examining how authors in New Spain tried to reconcile not only long-standing Greco-Roman understandings about health with emerging anatomical information, but also with knowledge drawn from personal experience as practitioners living and writing in a non-European setting. Of special interest will be also how imported Iberian ideas on sexual difference and racial inferiority were realigned to new vectors in early colonial literature and science.

Yarí Pérez Marín holds a Ph.D in Hispanic Studies from Brown University and specializes in colonial Latin American literature and culture. Her research and teaching interests include Caribbean literature, history of science and film studies. In her upcoming book project, Evolving Epistemologies and New World Medical Writings, 1565-1592, she examines texts written in Spain and colonial Mexico in which American nature takes center stage in the ongoing feud between Renaissance humanism and experiential modes of knowledge-production. Her analysis makes a case for the incorporation of scientific writing into current discussions on early modern historiography and literature.