The 2009-2010 Klopsteg seminar series in SCIENCE IN HUMAN CULTURE presents:

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"FOREIGN CONTAGION AND HONOR IN LATE NINETEENTH- AND EARLY TWENTIETH-CENTURY BUENOS AIRES"

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ABSTRACT: The rapid growth of Buenos Aires in the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries produced new sources of contagions which threatened honor. Much of the discourse concerning contagion centered on the effects of European immigration on Argentine society. All kinds of physical and moral "diseases", legal and medical professionals argued, were being introduced by immigrants. This paper examines honor as defined by these professionals, and the threats posed to it by the influx of foreigners whose honor was undermined by the immigrant experience itself.

BIO: KRISTIN RUGGIERO is Professor of History, Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and an Associate Director of the Center for International Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is the author of Modernity in the Flesh: Medicine, Law and Society in turn-of-the-Century Argentina (Stanford University Press, 2004) and And Here the World Ends: The Life of an Argentine Village (Stanford University Press, 1988). She is also editor of The Jewish Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean: Fragments of Memory (Sussex Academic Press, 2005).