Héctor Calderón  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  

invites you to attend the annual Lois E. Matthews Lecture

BAROQUE COUNTERPOINT  
Sor Juana and Sigüenza on Huitzilopochtli

by

Rolena Adorno  
Sterling Professor and Chair  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Yale

This metaphorical reference to the musical art of combining different melodic lines within a single composition is intended to evoke the literary relationship between Carlos de Sigüenza y Gongora and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. It turns on their appropriations of ancient Mexican culture and specifically their recreations of the Mexica deity Huitzilopochtli. The contrapuntal relationship in music is based on harmony (thus interdependence) and individuality (thus independence). In their respective transformations of Huitzilopochtli, we discover the theories of exequ离 on which Sor Juana and Sigüenza relied, making possible an illuminating display of the common ground they shared which, it turns out, is more notable than their differences.

Thursday, January 21, 2016  
4:00 p.m. Lecture  
Reception to follow

Faculty Center, Cypress Room  
480 Charles E. Young Drive East  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Parking is available in Lot 2 for $12 (cash only)

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Appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Council on the Humanities, she is an Honorary Professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú in Lima, Peru, and an Honorary Associate of the Hispanic Society of America in New York. Rolena Adorno was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003, and she is the most recent recipient (2014) of the Modern Language Association’s Award for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement, which is given once every three years for all the modern languages and literatures. She is the first recipient of the award who does not specialize in English-language literatures.

Adorno was born and raised on a farm in eastern Iowa, attended a one-room, public country elementary school, and graduated from high school in the town of Durant, Iowa, population 1200. She received a B.A. from the University of Iowa and the Ph.D. from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. 2016 marks her fortieth year as a professor of Spanish and Latin American literature, and she has served on the faculties of Syracuse University, the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, the University of Michigan–Ann Arbor, and Princeton University. She left Princeton to join the senior faculty at Yale in 1996. Her current research focuses on the nineteenth-century U.S. appropriation of the Spanish literary heritage, the literary worlds of El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega and, not surprisingly, the literary life of Carlos de Sigüenza y Gongora.