

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  
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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 Góngora 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 exegesis 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.



Photo by Michael Marsland

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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Rolena Adorno is the Sterling Professor of Spanish and Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Yale University. Her teaching and research focus on colonial Spanish American literary and cultural history and the nineteenth-century origins of Hispanism in the United States. Her books include *Colonial Latin American Literature: A Very Short Introduction* (2011), *De Guanacane a Macondo: Estudios de literatura latinoamericana* (2008), *The Polemics of Possession in Spanish American Narrative* (2007), *Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca: His Account, His Life, and the Expedition of Pánfilo de Narváez*, with Patrick Charles Pautz (1999), and *Guaman Poma: Writing and Resistance in Colonial Perú* (1986, 2000). She has received book prizes from the Modern Language Association, the American Historical Association, the Western Historical Association, and the New England Council of Latin American Studies.

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 Góngora.