

DEPARTMENT OF HISPANIC & ITALIAN STUDIES
COLLOQUIUM ABSTRACTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

(10:30) **Beatriz de Alba-Koch, "Crossing Out Globalization: The Twenty-Six Martyrs of Nagasaki"**

This paper focuses on the February 5, 1597 crucifixion of twenty six Christians in Nagasaki. Central to the discussion is how this public execution became not only the first step towards the eradication of Christianity. It also initiated the virtual closing of Japan's doors to the first global culture established by the Iberian empires.

(11:00) **Pablo Restrepo-Gautier, "Uninvited Globalizers: The Spanish in the Land of the Mowachaht (1774-1796)"**

In 1789, Yuquot, in Mowachaht territory, was the meeting place for people from many foreign nations. Spanish, English, Portuguese, Americans, Chinese, they all converged at Nootka Sound. The Spanish considered the area to be part of their empire, a global culture that was transatlantic and transpacific. One of the tools of globalization is language and writing, and most of what we know about the Spanish presence in the area comes from the written record. In this talk, a textual analysis of the manuscripts from the key-year of 1789 will shed light on the 18th-century Spanish approach to occupation, empire-building, and globalization.

(11:30) **Robin Inglis, "A Global Reach: Mowachaht Ambassadors from 18th-Century Vancouver Island"**

The ravages of colonialism, and the legal and attitudinal legacy it spawned, destroyed most elements of native life in British Columbia. Although this history is usually traced back to the contact period and there is some justification for this because of the introduction of disease and the violence that attended the maritime fur trade, the main problems - alienation of territory and the forcible integration of natives into the settler labour forces of fishing, mining and forestry came later. There is in fact a small silver lining that came from the early years of contact - the legacy of journals, charts, art and artifacts that can provide even for First Nations themselves a valuable insight into their heritage 'before the white man.' Nowhere is this more true than for the Mowachaht of Nootka Sound. The 'documentation' which came from 'contact' at Nootka is unparalleled in the history and anthropology of Western North America. While written descriptions are fascinating, and charts not without both interest and value, it is the artwork and particularly the artifact collections appearing in museum exhibitions from Cape Town to Vienna, from Madrid and Berlin to London that are most striking. Chief Michael Maquinna of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation refers to these, often unique, pieces as his community's 'ambassadors to the world.'

(1:00) **Dan Russek, "A Writer-Photographer? The Case of Juan Rulfo"**

My presentation examines the figure of Mexican writer Juan Rulfo (1918-1986) in light of recent commentaries about his life and work. While exploring the strategies and cultural politics that have made of Rulfo a canonical figure of modern Mexican literature, I will examine in particular the photographic activity that the author of *Pedro Páramo* developed during his life. After assessing the value and meaning of his photographic work, I will critically analyze the extent to which Rulfo's photographic production has been integrated to his authorial profile.

(1:30) **Juan Luis Suárez, "Books Make a Country: The Cultural Network of the Central Bank of Colombia"**

In this talk, I will explain the role that the cultural network (banrepcultural.org) of the Banco de la República of Colombia plays in the mission of the central bank as the repository of trust for the country. Using a big data approach and analyzing the usage of the interlibrary loans system of the bank, I will explain how the libraries of the bank contribute to the perception of continuity, presence of the state, safety, and autonomy of their users. Also important is the deployment of a network of mediators of peace that will help create linkages between communities and institutions and contribute to foster a culture of peace after 52 years of internal war.