Wake Forest University Humanities Institute Presents

A MEXICAN STATE OF MIND
NEW YORK CITY AND THE NEW BORDERLANDS OF CULTURE

A Lecture by Dr. Melissa Castillo Planas

Based on her recently published book, *A Mexican State of Mind: New York City and the New Borderlands of Culture* (2020; Rutgers UP), Dr. Castillo Planas’s talk explores the cultural and creative lives of the largely young undocumented Mexican population in New York City since September 11, 2001. Inspired by a dialogue between the landmark works of Paul Gilroy and Gloria Anzaldúa, her research develops a new analytic framework, the Atlantic Borderlands, which bridges Mexican diasporic experiences in New York City and the black diaspora, not as a comparison but in recognition that colonialism, interracial and interethnic contact through trade, migration, and slavery are connected via capitalist economies and technological developments. Her book is based on ten years of fieldwork in New York City, with members of a vibrant community of young Mexican migrants who coexist and interact with people from all over the world. It focuses on youth culture including hip hop, graffiti, muralism, labor activism, arts entrepreneurship and collective making.

Friday, November 13, 2020 1:00 PM (EST) - Online via Zoom

Contact Dr. Samanta Ordóñez (ordones@wfu.edu) for meeting link.

Dr. Melissa Castillo Planas is an Assistant Professor of English at Lehman College specializing in Latinx Literature and Culture. In addition to *A Mexican State of Mind*, she is also the author of the poetry collection *Coatlícuatl Eats the Apple*, editor of the anthology, ¡Manteca!: An Anthology of Afro-Latin@ Poets, co-editor of *La Verdad: An International Dialogue on Hip Hop Latinidades* and co-author of the novel, *Pure Bronx*. Her second book of poetry, *Chingona Rules* is forthcoming with Finishing Line Press in summer 2021.