Early modern Spain has traditionally been depicted as a unique blend of religious fanaticism, imperialist cruelty, and economic failure. Historians of all persuasions have long struggled to readjust these deeply held views, and this paper reports on some new possibilities for assessing this problem, especially in light of recent discussions of the "public sphere" in early modern Europe as a whole. The latter highlight the advantages of moving beyond the "macro" level at which this struggle over reputation has taken place, to offer some observations from a more "micro" angle: that is, from the daily lives of a wide range of Spaniards whose views on an equally wide range of issues reveal the existence of much more vibrant and contested states of opinion.

Monday, April 23, 2018
1pm
Music Room, Rochambeau House
84 Prospect Street