Staging Habla de Negros in Iberian Early Modernity

Nicholas R. Jones
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020 | 6PM
[click here for the zoom link]
passcode: profjones

In this lecture, Nicholas R. Jones analyzes cultural and dramatic representations of Black African voices in Spanish theater from the 1500s through the 1700s, when the performance of Africanized Castilian, commonly referred to as habla de negros (Black speech), was in vogue. Drawing on material from his book, Staging Habla de Negros: Radical Performances of the African Diaspora in Early Modern Spain, Jones elucidates the ways that habla de negros animated Black Africans’ agency, empowered their resistance, and highlighted their African cultural retentions.

Nicholas R. Jones is an Assistant Professor of Spanish and Africana Studies whose research agenda explores the agency, subjectivity, and performance of Black diasporic identities in early modern Iberia and the Ibero-Atlantic world. He is the author of Staging Habla de Negros: Radical Performances of the African Diaspora in Early Modern Spain (Penn State University Press, May 2019) and co-editor of Early Modern Black Diaspora Studies: A Critical Anthology (Palgrave, December 2018) with Cassander L. Smith and Miles P. Grier. Jones also is co-editor of the Routledge Critical Junctures in Global Early Modernities book series with Derrick Higginbotham and has published widely in peer-reviewed venues such as Colonial Latin American, Hispanic Review, Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Postmedieval: A Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies, and University of Toronto Quarterly.

This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Hispanic Studies, the Center for the Study of the Early Modern World, and the Center for Language Studies as a part of the series “Racial Justice through a Global Lens.”