The Department of Hispanic Studies at Brown University and The Andean Project present:

‘THE MOST USUAL REMEDY’.

Dr. Stefanie Gänger
University of Cologne

The talk offers an account of the worldwide integration of medical understandings, practices, and materials in the decades around 1800. Centred on the ‘Peruvlian bark’, or, cinchona, it examines how that remedy, as well as recipes and understandings attendant to its consumption – formulae for ‘bittersweet’ ‘aromatic’ wines made from it, or beliefs in its ability to ‘prevent fevers’ – became part of the taken-for-granted medical understanding of societies across ‘the four corners of the Earth’ (Francisco J. de Caldas, 1809). Cinchona, the paper contends, was both a creature and a vehicle of a medical world laced together in the late 1700s and early 1800s; it offers an account of how numerous men, women, and children came to share experiences at a level as fundamental as that of their body – of sickness, taste, and cure – within it.

Thursday, April 5 | 5:30 PM | Music Room, Rochambeau House | 84 Prospect Street