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Colonization in Translation: Sex, Gender, and Dictionaries

Using translation dictionaries of the Miami-Illinois language found at the JCB and elsewhere, this talk will explore how these language documents function as valuable sources for a group of people that did not leave behind a written record. The Miami-Illinois words and their French translations offer clues that allow us to reconstruct how gender and sexuality functioned in one Native society. Similarly, the development of these dictionaries over the first sixty years of French colonization provide an intimate look at the process and progress of French colonization in the area, particularly its affect on the gender and sexual systems of the Illinois, systems fundamental to both French and Illinois societies.

4 p.m. Wednesday November 29, 2017  For more information:

MacMillan Reading Room  email  jcb-events@brown.edu
John Carter Brown Library  visit  jcbl.org
94 George Street, Providence, RI  call  401.863.2345