

THE DEPARTMENT OF
LATINA/LATINO STUDIES

FALL 2013 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

QUEER POETRY IN LOISAIDA: NUYORICAN HISTORY,
MIGUELITO PIÑERO, AND AN EMERGING AESTHETIC



DR. KAREN JAIME

Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Associate

This talk will attend to the ways in which the Nuyorican Poets Café has operated since its founding as a queer space, both in terms of sexualities and performance practices. In re-codifying the work of Café founder Miguel Piñero as queer poetry in Loisaída, Dr. Jaime points to the emergence of an aesthetic practice that speaks to the dialogic relationship between the artistic practices that occur within the Nuyorican Poets Café and the changing political and geographic landscape outside of it. As part of her discussion, Dr. Jaime indexes the historical, political and cultural conditions under which the term "Nuyorican" shifts from identity marker to aesthetic practice. For purposes of this talk, the term "Nuyorican" identifies Puerto Ricans who have been born in the United States, while "nuyorican" marks poets/performers who are not ethnically Puerto Rican but whose artistic practices are influenced by the history and work of the Nuyorican Poets Café Arts Movement. Focusing on the poetry of Piñero enables Dr. Jaime to demonstrate the ways poets and artists have historically marked spaces through performance; specifically, how Piñero took linguistic ownership of space through the physical act of walking. The mobility articulated and enacted by Piñero then speaks to the emergence of the "nuyorican" aesthetic, an artistic practice grounded in the countercultural history and politics inherent in the reappropriation of the identity-anchored term "Nuyorican."

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

3:30-5:00pm

Asian American Cultural Center

1210 W. Nevada, Urbana

