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Latina Latino Studies Program

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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The Rolando
Hinojosa-Smith
Lecture Series

Presents:

"THE 'LOOK' OF SOVEREIGNTY"



Dr. Frances Negrón-Muntaner
Assistant Professor,
Department of English and
Comparative Literature,
Columbia University,
Filmmaker and Writer

The Young Lords of New York are one of the few, and perhaps the only, Puerto Rican political group to fully capture their city's imagination. In this talk, Frances Negrón-Muntaner argues that the Lords were able to accomplish this to a significant extent through what we can call the "sovereign look," a new way of fashioning and choreographing the Puerto Rican body that communicated that Puerto Ricans were able and ready to be the protagonists of their political destiny.

Frances Negrón-Muntaner is an award-winning filmmaker, writer, and scholar. Born in Puerto Rico to a family of academics, Negrón-Muntaner's work spans several fields, including cinema, literature, cultural criticism, and politics. Negrón-Muntaner currently teaches at Columbia University's Department of English and Comparative Literature and at the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. Since the late 1980s, Negrón-Muntaner's work has been considered an important resource in addressing sexuality, colonialism, nationalism, and migration in Puerto Rican/Latino diasporic communities. She is the author of "Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Culture" (winner, 2004 CHOICE Award) and "Anatomy of a Smile and Other Poems" (2007); the editor of four books, "Shouting in a Whisper: Latino Poets in Philadelphia" (1994), "Puerto Rican Jam: Rethinking Colonialism and Nationalism" (1997), "None of the Above: Puerto Ricans in the Global Era" (2007), and "Sovereign Acts" (2008); and the director of "Brincando el Charco: Portrait of a Puerto Rican" (1994, the first Puerto Rican film to examine issues of race, gender and homophobia in the context of migration), "For the Record: Guam and World War II" (2007), and other films. Negrón-Muntaner is also a founding board member and past chair of NALIP, the National Association of Latino Independent Producers.

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2007

Time: 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Place: 192 Lincoln Hall