THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE, HER MIRACULOUS APPEARANCES AND SCIENCE FACT/FICTION

RUDY V. BUSTO, U.C. SANTA BARBARA
11:10-12:30 – THURS. OCTOBER 5 – INTN 2043

The Latinx scholarship on the Virgin of Guadalupe is almost entirely hagiographical and avoids the debate over whether the miracle of the Virgin Mary in 1531 Mexico is “real” history. This lecture suggests that appreciating the science fictional aspects of the Virgin of Guadalupe’s appearance brings new understanding of that event. Interpreting, for example, the original sources through the materiality of European military, and New World racial and metaphysical sciences, Guadalupe’s miraculous appearance is the reimagining of possibilities: the “science fictionality” of indigenous and criollo Mexicans confronted by European science and technologies. The lecture compares the appearance of Guadalupe in 1531 with its reiteration in Cherrie Moraga’s 1993 play “Heroes and Saints.”

Rudy V. Busto is Associate Professor of Religion at UCSB. His teaching and research interests focus broadly on race and religion in North America, with specific interests in Chicana/o religion, Asian American religion, and the intersections of religion and science fiction. He is the author of King Tiger: The Religious Vision of Reies López Tijerina, and is currently completing a manuscript on Asian American religion (DisOrienting Subjects: Asian Americans and Religion), and continues to work on a book project on Chicana/o Religion (The Predicaments of Nepantla: Chicana/o Religion).

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