cordially invites you to a special lecture, "Phytofabulae: Tales of the Amazon,”
by Patrícia Vieira, Georgetown University

Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 5:00 PM
Mushroom pizza, organic apples, and ginger ale will be served!
Free and open to the public. Parking lot 13.

Abstract. The Amazon has been the repository of myriad stories created as a means to make sense of the unimaginable proliferation of life and sheer excess of vegetation in the jungle. From the myth of the Amazons, which gave the area its current name, to the legend of El Dorado, from a plot of progress to one of protectionism, from a developmental to a conservationist rhetoric, explorers, scientists, activists and governments have superimposed their own narratives upon the forest. This talk will begin with a discussion of some of the most widespread and enduring views on the region. In the second part of the lecture, we will turn to literary texts that have attempted to listen to and interpret the voice of the jungle. How can we translate the tales of the Amazon? How are we to hear its phytofabulae?

Patrícia Vieira is Associate Professor of Spanish & Portuguese, Comparative Literature, and Film & Media Studies, as well as Director of the Comparative Literature Program at Georgetown University. She is the author of Seeing Politics Otherwise: Vision in Latin American and Iberian Fiction, Portuguese Film 1930-1960. The Staging of the New State Regime and co-editor of Existential Utopia: New Perspectives on Utopian Thought and of Imagens Achadas: Documentário, Política e Processos Sociais em Portugal. She has published numerous academic articles, as well as op-eds in The New York Times, Aljazeera Online, Público and Folha de São Paulo. For more information, please consult www.patriciavieira.net

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