The Departments of Portuguese & Women’s and Gender Studies

present a lecture

Contemporary Women’s Fiction in Brazil: The New Historical Narrator

by Luiza Lobo
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

Monday, April 28, 5 pm, Board of Trustees Room (Foster Administration Building).

A wine and cheese reception will accompany the lecture.
**Abstract.** This lecture draws on the historiographic legacy of the French Annales school, particularly on the New History (Nouvelle Histoire) scholarship as developed by Jacques Le Goff (1924-2014) since the 1970s, in connection with literary historical fiction published in recent decades by Brazilian women writers. These narratives rely on historical research and documentation, and feature realistic social
settings and an omniscient narrator, which distances them from the more intimate style that prevailed in Brazilian women’s writing until the 1970s and 1980s. Works by Nélida Piñon, Patrícia Melo, and Ana Miranda open a new line of historical novel writing in Brazil, following the path opened by Rachel de Queiroz and Dinah Silveira de Queiroz. They mark a difference in relation to the fiction focused on the body, the intimate sphere, and the home, with introspective first-person narrators and the stream-of-consciousness discourse, which pervaded Brazilian women’s writing since the publication in 1859 of Maria Firmina dos Reis’s Romantic novel Úrsula and counted among its practitioners such writers as Clarice Lispector, Lígia Fagundes Teles, Sonia Coutinho, Helena Parente Cunha, and the early Nélida Piñon.

Luiza Lobo is Associate Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and currently holds a Fulbright Chair in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She has published eighteen books of scholarship as well as fiction. Her 2011 historical novel, Terras proibidas, a saga do café no vale do Paraíba do Sul (Rocco), which draws on the immigration of Portuguese families to Brazil since the nineteenth century, received the Brazilian Pen Club’s national prize for narrative in December of 2013. Her scholarly volumes include Crítica sem juízo (1993; 2nd ed. 2007), Épica e modernidade em Sousândrade (1986; 2nd ed. 2005), Guia de escritoras da Literatura Brasileira (2006), and Teorias poéticas do Romantismo (1987). She is also a prolific translator of Virginia Woolf, Katherine Mansfield, James Hogg, and Edgar Allan Poe, among other authors. She has taught Brazilian literature at several universities in Europe (Aarhus in Denmark; the Free University of Berlin; Nantes and Poitiers in France), was a visiting scholar at Oxford, and has lectured widely throughout the world.

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