

The Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean (CERLAC) presents:

Zombies, Gender and World-Ecology: Ana Lydia Vega's and Mayra Montero's Feminist Eco-Gothic Narratives

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Oct. 17, 12:30-2:30pm :: Kaneff Tower 626

Registering the impact of the ecological revolutions through which the capitalist world-system unfolded, the figure of the zombie sits at the fault lines of racial, class, gender and environmental violence. The classic zombie figure toiling on the plantation fields thus may be read as a cultural response to capitalism's development through the ruthless exploitation and commoditisation of labor and nature. Further, the figure of the white female zombie, a staple of the imperial imagination, registers on the level of what one might term the work's ecological unconscious the imbrications of nature-society relations. In their more recent texts from the last decade of the twentieth century, Ana Lydia Vega and Mayra Montero employ the female zombie figure to reflect on various forms of structural, environmental and symbolic violence and to formulate a critique of the imperial gothic. Their texts may thus be read to speak to, and perhaps help to bring together, eco-feminist and world-ecological strands of thought.

Kerstin Oloff is an Assistant Professor at Durham University. She is the co-editor of *Perspectives on the Other America* (Rodopi, 2009), and has published articles and interviews in edited collections and journals such as *Green Letters*, *Revista Hispánica Moderna*, *LARR*, and *La Habana elegante*.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics (DLLL), the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program (LACS), and the Centre for Feminist Research (CFR).