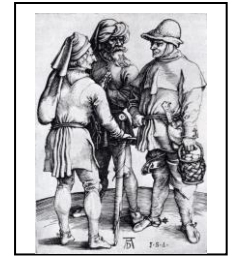


The Fifty-Seventh Season of the
**TORONTO RENAISSANCE AND
REFORMATION COLLOQUIUM**

Founded by Natalie Zemon Davis and James K. McConica in 1964



Nicholas R. Jones
(University of California, Davis)

“Staging *Habla de Negros*: A Book Presentation & Workshop”

Wednesday, 19 January 2022, 4:00 p.m.
(Toronto time) via Zoom. To attend this talk, please send email marmstr@mcmaster.ca and include your name and the event. One day before the event you will receive an email containing access information to the lecture.

This talk analyzes cultural representations of black African voices in Spanish theater from the 1500s through the 1700s, when the performance of Africanized Castilian, commonly referred to as *habla de negros* (black speech), was in vogue. Jones makes a strong case for revising the belief, long held by literary critics and linguists, that white appropriations of *habla de negros* language are “racist baffoonery” or stereotype. Instead, Jones shows black characters who laugh, sing, and shout, ultimately combating the violent desire of white supremacy. By placing early modern Iberia in conversation with discourses on African diaspora studies, Jones showcases how black Africans and their descendants who built communities in early modern Spain were rendered legible in performative literary texts.

Nicholas R. Jones (UC Davis) is the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center’s (KJCC) Scholar-in-Residence at New York University. He is the author of the award-winning *Staging Habla de Negros: Radical Performances of the African Diaspora in Early Modern Spain* (Penn State University Press, May 2019) and co-editor of *Early Modern Black Diaspora Studies: A Critical Anthology* (Palgrave, December 2018) and *Pornographic Sensibilities: Imagining Sex and the Visceral in Premodern and Early Modern Spanish Cultural Production* (Routledge, January 2021) with Chad Leahy. Jones also co-edits the *Routledge Critical Junctures in Global Early Modernities* book series with Derrick Higginbotham and his research has been generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Jones is also completing his second solo-authored monograph entitled *Cervantine Blackness* and has also held visiting appointments at Georgetown University and New York University.

