



UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES

Shaping and Contesting the Past: Monuments, Memory, and Identity in Buenos Aires

The Fourth Annual Van Gelderen Graduate Student Lecture

In 2013, then-President of Argentina Cristina Fernández de Kirchner sparked both protest and praise after announcing the removal of a nearly century-old monument of Christopher Columbus in Buenos Aires. It had been a gift from Argentina’s prominent Italian immigrant community, to celebrate the nation’s centennial of independence. After two years of contentious public debates, Kirchner celebrated the inauguration of the massive monument that replaced it—a sculpture of Juana Azurduy de Padilla, a nineteenth-century female revolutionary fighter of indigenous heritage, and a historical figure previously unknown to most.



The controversy over these statues provides a flashpoint to examine the history and iconography of monuments in Buenos Aires’s commemorative core, to question how history, identity, and memory are produced and internalized through public spaces. How did monuments perform specific didactic functions in the past, and do they continue to do so in the present? If so, who has authority in representation? What should become of monuments to now-questionable heroes and narratives of the past?

About our Speaker:

Cheryl Jimenez Frei is completing her PhD dissertation in Latin American History. Her research specialties include Argentina, memory, and the built environment, visual culture, and public history. Her article, “Contesting Columbus: Monuments, Memory and Identity in Buenos Aires,” was recently accepted by the Journal of Latin American Studies.

A luncheon of bbq beef and chicken will be served at 12:30 pm in the Alumni Hall on the plaza level (second floor) of the Mosher Alumni House. The Alumni House is at the entrance road for Campbell Hall, next to convenient parking (\$4 on weekends). Campus map available at: <http://www.tps.ucsb.edu/mapFlash.aspx>

“*Shaping and Contesting the Past*,” February 26, 2017, 12:30 pm, Mosher Alumni House

Please reserve _____ space(s) \$30 (members and guests) _____ \$33 (non-members) _____ \$15 (students). Detach at dotted line and mail check payable to **UCSB History Associates**, Department of History, UCSB, 93106-9410 (or leave a message at 1-805-300-4016) by Feb. 19.

Name _____ Guest(s) _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ E-mail: _____

To honor Jo Beth, I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$_____ for the History Associates Graduate Endowment (Please make a separate check payable to “**UC Santa Barbara Foundation**”).