

International Learning Community Speakers/Panel - Fall 2017

12:30 pm, 21 September

Schuster 130: Sarah Spencer Global Engagement Hall

**Dr. Steven Ramey, University of Alabama: “Moving Gods: Change and
Continuity in India and Around the World”**

Steven Ramey is an Associate Professor and Director of Asian Studies at the University of Alabama. Dr. Ramey’s primary research focuses on the contemporary formation of religious practices in contexts of migration, particularly analyzing the contestations surrounding subgroups within a religion. Using his ethnographic work in India and the Southeastern United States, he has published and presented on the ways Sindhi Hindus construct their community and practices in various contexts, represent themselves to non-Sindhis, and negotiate the challenges that their minority position creates. His book, *Hindu Sufi or Sikh: Contested Practices and Identifications of Sindhi Hindus in India and Beyond*, was published in 2008 with Palgrave Macmillan press. He is also editor of *Writing Religion: The Case for the Critical Study of Religion*.

12:30 pm, 19 October

Schuster 130: Sarah Spencer Global Engagement Hall

**Dr. Rachel Rubin, University of Massachusetts, “Gangster Generations:
Telling Immigrant History with a Gun”**

Rachel Rubin is professor of American Studies at University of Massachusetts, where she also serves as director of the Center for the Study of Humanities, Culture, and Society and curator of its brand-new popular culture archive. Rubin has published widely in topics ranging from immigration and popular culture (*Immigration and American Popular Culture: An Introduction*, 2006) to gangsters in modernist literature to country music and working-class culture, to Asian Americans and cyberculture. Her most recent book is *Well Met: Renaissance Faires and the American Counterculture* (2012). Rubin is also a regular commentator on popular culture on Boston’s NPR news station, and has served frequently as academic advisor to documentary films, lecture series, and more.

12:30 pm, 2 November

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Professor Gabriel Villa, Amos Eminent Scholar, “Art and Place”

Gabriel Villa is a Chicago-based professional artist. Villa received his MFA from the University of Delaware and a BFA from Corpus Christi State University-Texas A& M and is attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, MN. Gabriel Villa was born and raised in the El Paso, Texas/ Ciudad Juarez border region and currently resides in Chicago, Illinois, where he is an active member of the arts community. Villa’s teaching practices include Visiting Artist at American University in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Professor of foundation Painting and Drawing at Triton College, River Grove, IL, Visiting Artist at Stateville Prison, Crest Hill IL, with the Prison Neighborhood & Prison Arts Project and most recently, Foundation Drawing at Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL. Villa served from 2005-2011 as Director of Yollocalli Arts Reach, a youth initiative of the National Museum of Mexican Art and also served as Co-Curator for the Chicago Kraft Foods Gallery from 2006-2011 at the National Museum of Mexican Art. Villa has had numerous national exhibitions and has received numerous awards.

12:30 pm, 14 November

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**Student/Faculty/Community Panel Discussion, “Migration Stories:
How Foreign Do You Feel”**