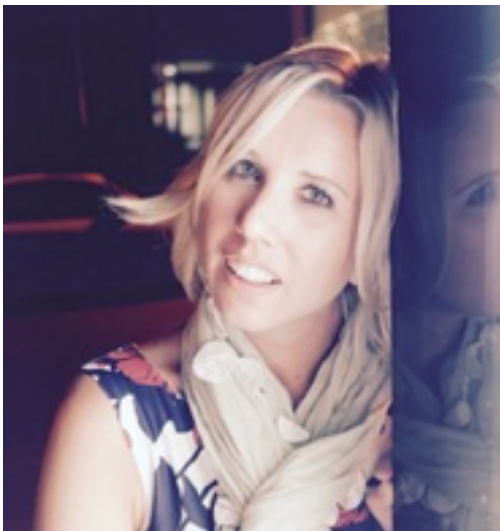




Border Encounters: Theorizing the US-Mexico Border as Transa

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Tuesday, May 28, 2019
10 a.m. - 12 noon (c.t.)
P 109a (Philosophicum)



Transa may originate in Tijuana, but like so many Tijuane, it is a mobile, border-crossing word. In transa, we hear the echo not only of transaction but also of transnational, transboundary, and many other concepts that have become increasingly popular in cultural studies of the Americas. Transa describes alternate forms of borderlands representation that are 'transnational' and 'transa-genre.' Drawing on Montezemolo, Peralta and Yépez's use of transa, in this chapter, I explore the varied potential of transa as an alternative border encounter—an approach that theorizes how transactions between the material realities of the US-Mexico borderlands and innovative aesthetics (form) produce experimental, transnational cultural texts.

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