CALL FOR PAPERS

Objects of Devotion/Objectos de Devoción: Latin American Material Religious Cultures
December 12-14, 2014

This multidisciplinary conference engages historic and contemporary Latin American and Latino visual, material, and ritual cultural practice, coinciding with an exhibit of the work of Mexican-British artist, Alinka Echeverria, at the California Museum of Photography (November 1, 2014–January 24, 2015). Echeverria’s photographs explore the relationship of visual, religious, and material culture in Mexico, considering in particular the power of the Guadalupe icon.

Papers may address any dimension of religious materiality in the Latin American/Latino context. Among other approaches, we are interested in papers that contextualize religious and material cultural practices within a political frame in relation to transnational migration, performance theory, visual studies, and borderlands theory.

Plenary sessions will include conversations with the artist and major national/international scholars. At least one session will be held in Spanish for the larger public.

Please send a title, abstract (200-300 words) of your proposed topic, and a bio of 150-200 suitable for advertising purposes. Paper presentations will be a maximum of 20 minutes in duration. Paper proposals should be sent to jhughes@ucr.edu by October 15th, 2014 with the phrase “Objects of Devotion Abstract” in the subject heading.

Other inquiries can be directed to: Jennifer R. Nájera, Associate Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies jennifer.najera@ucr.edu
Jennifer Scheper Hughes, Associate Professor, Department of History jhughes@ucr.edu

Sponsored by University of California, Humanities Research Institute, the Institute for the Study of Immigration and Religion (UCR), the California Museum of Photography, the Culver Center for the Arts, and the Center for Ideas and Society (UCR).