

The Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature
and the Latin American & Caribbean Studies Center
present

Stony Brook University
Javits Center 109
Monday, September 28
2:30 PM

This lecture examines the emergence of free colored labor in Cuba in the first half of the nineteenth century as a perceived, unanticipated peril for the stability of the Spanish colony in the view of local authorities. By merely existing as free and colored on a slaveholding island, these subjects unwittingly constituted a radical, non-revolutionary threat to colonial power—until, that is, racial terror and violence became the colonial régime's response to this burgeoning, colored, petty bourgeoisie.

Gerard Aching
Cornell University

“Yet Without Being a Perfect Mulatto”: Race, Free Labor, and Colonial Paranoia

Gerard Aching is professor of Africana and Romance Studies and currently directs the Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University. His research and teaching fields include Caribbean Colonial Literatures in English, Spanish, and French; Just War Theory and Colonialism; Slavery and Philosophy; and Caribbean and Latin American Theories of modernity and postcoloniality. He is the author of *The Politics of Spanish American Modernismo: By Exquisite Design* (Cambridge, 1997), *Masking and Power: Carnival and Popular Culture in the Caribbean* (Minnesota, 2003), and, most recently, *Freedom from Liberation: Slavery, Sentiment, and Literature in Cuba* (Indiana, 2015)