Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2018, 5 PM
STRONG HALL, AUDITORIUM 101, FIRST LEVEL

In her book *Dispossessed Lives*, Professor Marisa Fuentes illuminates the lives of enslaved women in eighteenth century Bridgetown, Barbados, reading fragments of traditional archival sources “along the bias grain.” In her talk, she will present two stories from the book: “Jane,” a fugitive enslaved woman, and “Venus,” women evoked in the slave trade abolition debates of the late eighteenth century. These women’s stories were not meant as history, but Fuentes will discuss how even the most invisible subjects can be thoughtfully considered through archival fragments and elaborated with ethical methods that challenge the enduring power of the colonial archive to center the sights, sounds, and views of enslaved women.

SPEAKER:

**MARISA J. FUENTES** is the Presidential Term Chair in African American History and associate professor of Women’s and Gender Studies and History at Rutgers University. Her first book, *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive*, won book prizes from the Caribbean Studies Association, the Association of Black Women Historians, and the Berkshires Conference of Women’s Historians. Fuentes’s research has been funded by several institutions, including the Ford Foundation, Harvard University, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Free and open to the public.