The lecture will explore how different theoretical approaches to the
narrative, performative and cultural aspects of trials, particularly show trials,
can illuminate the sexual and racial politics that underpinned the public’s
fascination with the Lorena Bobbitt case. Firstly, addressing the location of
Latinos in the trans-American social imaginary, profoundly marked by the
“coloniality of power.” Followed by inquiring how narrative and performative
analyses can fruitfully recast the study of show trials to better appreciate their
cultural and political implications. And finally analyzing the stories put forward
by both the defense and the prosecution and how they reenacted highly
problematic racial and sexual tropes characteristic of the coloniality of power.