

Chocolate and the Flowery World: Indigenous Aesthetics and Colonial Appropriation



Marcy Norton

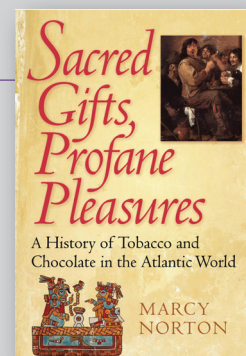
Thursday, March 7 • 12:30 p.m.

Germantown Campus

High Technology and Science Center (HT) • Globe Hall

Marcy Norton is associate professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania and a former Guggenheim fellow (2016–2017). Her research explores the intersections of environment, embodiment, and colonialism, and these concerns have guided her work on the history of food, drugs, science and inter-species relationships in early modern Europe and Latin America. She is the author of *Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco* and *Chocolate in the Atlantic World* (Cornell University Press, 2008) and winner of the best book prize from the Association for the Study of Food and Society. In addition to continued research on chocolate, she is currently finishing a book on human-animal relationships after 1492 in Europe and Native America.

Before Columbus's fateful voyage in 1492, no European had ever seen, much less tasted, chocolate. Initially dismissed as an odd Indian drink, this commodity came to conquer Europe on a scale unsurpassed by any other American resource or product. In this lecture Marcy Norton will not only explain how Europeans developed a taste for the sensory experience of chocolate, but how chocolate itself became a vehicle for the Mesoamerican concept of the "flowery" world.



A Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia Event

Spring 2019 Speakers Series

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