

CROSSING DISCIPLINES

Comparative Studies Colloquia on Interdisciplinarity

Cultural Agency and Crossing Disciplines

Colloquium Leader

Dr. Doris Sommer will lead a roundtable discussion on the interdisciplinary work at the heart of cultural agents throughout the world. The roundtable will engage participants on topics related to literary studies, cultural studies, and socially engaged art. The goal is to explore how we can contribute to keeping the humanities at the center of active citizenship.

In her most recent book, *The Work of Art in the World: Civic Agency and Public Humanities* (Duke UP, 2014) Dr. Sommer focuses on "celebrating art and interpretation that take on social challenges, and steers the humanities back to engagement with the world. The reformist projects that focus her attention develop momentum and meaning as they circulate through society to inspire faith in the possible."



Oct. 6, 2014 — Noon
AH 209

The **Crossing Disciplines** colloquia promote the exchange of ideas across disciplines, fomenting our Ph.D. program's philosophy that topics in the arts, humanities and social sciences are most fruitfully understood through comparative modes of analysis that include an ever-changing landscape of theory and methodologies.

For more information contact: Dr. Michael J. Horswell — horswell@fau.edu

Dr. Doris Sommer Harvard University



Doris Sommer, Director of the Cultural Agents Initiative at Harvard University, is Ira and Jewell Williams Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and of African and African American Studies. Her academic and outreach work promotes development through arts and humanities, specifically through "Pre-Texts" in Boston Public Schools, throughout Latin America and beyond. Pre-Texts is an arts-based training program for teachers of literacy, critical thinking and citizenship. Among her books are *Foundational Fictions: The National Romances of Latin America* (1991), about novels that helped to consolidate new republics; *Proceed with Caution when Engaged by Minority Literature* (1999), on a rhetoric of particularism; *Bilingual Aesthetics: A New Sentimental Education* (2004); and *The Work of Art in the World: Civic Agency and Public Humanities* (2014). Sommer has enjoyed and is dedicated to developing good public school education. She has a B.A. from New Jersey's Douglass College for Women and a Ph.D. from Rutgers, the State University.