



Installation for the Pigott McCone and Gaffney Chairs

Seattle University President Stephen Sundborg, S.J., appointed Professor Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs as the Theiline Pigott McCone Chair in Humanities. The Theiline Pigott McCone Chair in Humanities is dedicated to promoting scholarly life among faculty. The President of Seattle University bestows this award to a member of the College of Arts and Sciences faculty who is an outstanding teacher and scholar in one of the basic humanities disciplines.

Seattle University President Stephen Sundborg, S.J., has named English Department Professor Mary-Antoinette Smith as the Reverend Louis Gaffney, S.J., Chair in the College of Arts and Sciences. Her two-year appointment began July 2018. This endowed chair is made possible by the Jesuit community at Seattle University and promotes issues germane to the Jesuit mission and identity of the faith that does justice and supports the Jesuit ideal of teaching.

Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs, Ph.D.

Theiline Pigott McCone Chair in Humanities, 2018-2020

Mary-Antoinette Smith, Ph.D.

Reverend Louis Gaffney, S.J. Chair, 2018-2020



CONTACT: pigottmccone@seattleu.edu | gaffney@seattleu.edu

Theiline Pigott McCone Chair in Humanities, 2018-2020

Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs, Ph.D.



Abundant Narratives: A trajectory of theorizing the word, a life, a new language

Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs is a Professor in Modern Languages and Women and Gender Studies, and past Director for The Center for The Study of Justice in Society, Wismer Professor, and past Director of the Latin American Studies Program and the Diversity, Citizenship and Social Justice Core Track, as well as current Pigott McCone Chair. She is a poet, literary critic, cultural worker and mother. She is the author/editor of nine books of poetry, criticism and culture, and multiple articles, encyclopedia entries, and opinion pieces. She received her MA and PhD from Stanford University, and studied Masters degree work in Mexico. Her work is especially known in Mexico, Chile, Spain, France, Portugal and Brazil, where she has lived and researched. She is first editor of *Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia*, and *Rebozos de Palabras: An Helena Maria Viramontes Reader*, as well as *Word Images: New Perspectives on Canícula and Other Works by Norma Elia Cantú*. She also authored the recently published and forthcoming poetry collections: *How Many Indians Can We Be?* (Mango Press) and *Kneading Words: Amasando Palabras*. Her published poetry collections are: *A Most Improbable Life*, *The Runaway Poems* and *The Plastic Book*. She is also the author of *Communal Feminisms*. She has presented her work all over the world, multilingually, and specializes in expanding subjectivity.

Two children's books are forthcoming with illustrator and artist Veronica Eldredge, SU graduate '16: *Y van, Yvan and Orange and Red*, bilingually. She has also published several of her former students in her edited books: Aldo Ulisses Reséndiz, Rae Wyse, Summer Staples, Graciela Vega, Carlos Sibaja and more. She was a Commissioner for the Arts for the state of Washington (2014-2017) and is the daughter of migrant farmworkers, as well as a past field and cannery worker herself. Her poetry has been anthologized and read around the world, and she has given keynotes and poetry readings globally. "Perhaps my greatest pride as a researcher and professor has come from working tirelessly throughout the years in my own unique personal project, to bring diverse intellectual challenges to our students, at Seattle University, by introducing authors/speakers from all over the world, through the various programs I have directed." – Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs

FALL EVENTS

Women of Color Luncheon (Faculty)

November 8, 2018

STCN 210

The Latinx and the Law

November 13, 2018

Law School- C6

Masculinidades: Evolving Masculinities, poetry and a Fish Bowl Conversation

November 15, 2018

Pigott Auditorium

WINTER EVENTS

Teach in on Puerto Rico and México

Reverend Louis Gaffney, S.J. Chair, 2018-2020

Mary-Antoinette Smith, Ph.D.



Tender Mercies: Moving from a Kairós of Mercy to Creating Beloved Community for a Just and Humane World

The [world] is sick; trouble is in the land, confusion all around... But I know . . . that only when it is dark enough [we] can see the stars. And I see God working in this period . . . Something is happening in our world. The masses of people are rising up. And wherever they are assembled today . . . the cry is always the same: We want to be free.—Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., *I Have Been to the Mountaintop* (1968)

[O]urs is a time of mercy . . . this is a kairós, our era is a kairós of mercy, an opportune time . . . [to offer] the medicine of mercy. . . [because] humanity is wounded, deeply wounded. Either it does not know how to cure its wounds or it believes that it's not possible to cure them. . . Humanity needs mercy and compassion.—Pope Francis, *The Name of God is Mercy* (2015)

Smith earned her doctorate in 18th and 19th Century British Literature from the University of Southern California and has been an SU faculty member for twenty-five years. Her classes incorporate the Ignatian pedagogical paradigm (context, experience, reflection, action, evaluation) and they, along with her scholarship, emphasize race, class, gender and sexuality theory that moves towards praxis in the Jesuit social justice tradition. A professed member of the Third Order of St. Dominic, she has been deeply influenced by all-things Ignatian while making countless retreats, including the 30-Day Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the nine-month Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life (SEEL); and, as a trained Ignatian Spiritual Director, she practices "holy" listening and "wholly" listening—two skills which inform and enrich her Gaffney Gatherings.

Smith's theme—Tender Mercies: Moving from a Kairós of Mercy to Creating the Beloved Community for a Just and Humane World—is inspired by the complementary global visions of Pope Francis and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The former inaugurated the Jubilee Year of Mercy (2015-16) while the latter sought creation of an all-inclusive Beloved Community (1958-68), and mercy, forgiveness, reconciliation, and the Ignatian principle of cura personalis (care for the whole person) are at the core of both of their visions for compassionate, holistic healing of the challenges and brokenness that plague our global world.

Smith's Gaffney Gatherings include book reading groups, Desolation/Consolation Circles, Beloved Community Deep Dialogue Workshops, and guest speaker engagements which foster cura personalis while enacting tender mercies towards faculty, staff, and students throughout our campus community. Gaffney Gatherings are inclusive, caring, collaborative spaces which promote meaningful dialogue and merciful listening in response to Dr. King's insightfully observation that for far too long we have "live[d] in monologue rather than dialogue."