Interrogating Early Modern Empire

The symposium will focus on how we define and imagine the empires of the early modern period, across linguistic, geographic, cultural, etc. boundaries, and in various ways. How do we see "empire" represented, described, embodied, fictionalized, promoted, resisted, etc. in a range of early modern archives? Is there a taxonomy of empire for the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries? Is there a global model for empire during that time, either articulated in the past or offered by scholars today? What kind of new paradigms, methodologies, or theoretical approaches can help us to understand early modern empires in new ways that speak to our own times? Participating scholars will discuss and analyze the ways that various early modern empires interacted, overlapped, exchanged diplomats and merchants, commodities, tribute, etc.

Todd Kontje, “Herder’s Humanism: Between Nation and Empire”
Babak Rahimi, “Gunpowder Empire and the Islamicate State: the case of the Safavids”
Nina Zhiri, “Narratives and Counter-Narratives of Empire”
Thomas Barton, “Deconstructing the Medieval/Early Modern Divide Through the Lens of Ethno-Religious Relations: The Case of Spanish Empire”
Jody Blanco, “Contribution to the Critique of Spiritual Conquest in the Americas and the Philippines”
Christine Hunefeldt, “Crafting Borders: From Tordesillas and Q’osqo to Andean Nation-States”

Kailey Giordano, “Stewarding the Land of the English Empire in Anne Bradstreet’s Poetry”
David Ringrose, “No Empire Without Women”
Nina Evarkiou, “Sculpting New Worlds: Thomas More’s Utopia, Enclosure and Empire”
Sal Nicolazzo, “Empire’s Biopolitics”
Daniel Vitkus, “Sacrificial Circumnavigations: World System, Empire, and the Oceanic Turn”

For more information to the program schedule: https://literature.ucsd.edu/news-events/upcoming-events.html