The Office of Sponsored Programs Presents

Scholars Exchange

A Tuesday Morning Coffee Series Featuring 2014 PSC CUNY Research Awardees

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. • Faculty Commons N-227

Christopher Swift Humanities

Theatres of Absence: Seville, 1248-1550

As is often the case when conducting research, I stumbled upon archival material I had not set out to find during my recent trip to Spain. Mechanized tabernacles used to stage early modern religious festivals have never been studied by theatre scholars, despite the fact that altar retablos reside and articulate in churches across Spain today. In my talk I will show how a "living archive" of theatrical scenery did more than contain or define performance space. Retablos functioned as participants in the narrative of Christian drama, inviting devotees to peer through sacred portals and attain proximity to the pantheon of Christian saints.



Photo by Walter Sol Jr.

