

Undergraduate Research Opportunity

PROJECT

Consuming Columbus in the Caribbean: Tourism, Colonial Nostalgia, and Pleasure in 20th Century Santo Domingo Research Experience

Hours required p/week:	6
Credits anticipated:	2

Mónica Espaillat Lizardo

History

My work in progress examines how the promotion of Santo Domingo's colonial city as a tourist destination relied on the use of Christopher Columbus, the rhetoric of discovery and exoticism, and an appeal to pleasure, each rooted in gendered and racialized desires. Selling Columbus has been a cornerstone of the Dominican Republic's national tourism strategy, pivotal to its post-dictatorship rehabilitation and modernization efforts beginning in 1966. The promotion of the Dominican Republic as a tourist destination also relied on the allure of pleasure, encompassing both the explicit marketing of its exotic landscapes and the implicit commodification of the sensuous bodies of Dominicans.

TEMPE

ONLINE

STUDENT

Research assistant's duties:

Researcher will undertake research in an online Dominican legal archive, create a bibliography of secondary sources on Caribbean/Dominican Republic tourism and sex tourism, produce literature reviews of texts selected from the created bibliography.

Required skills or qualifications:

Spanish fluency preferred (required for the archival research, not essential for the bibliographic and literature review work)

Skills student will acquire:

Students will engage with primary sources, and - through the use of a digital legal archive and the creation of a thematic bibliography - will gain invaluable research experience. Additionally, completing literature reviews will allow students to practice and strengthen their critical reading, synthesis, and analytical skills.