Who is Afraid of... the Spanish Mosque?

Professor Olga Bush
Visiting Scholar in the Department of Hispanic Studies

Dr. Olga Bush is a scholar of Islamic art and architecture, whose research interests engage interdisciplinary methods and theoretical issues in a wide variety of topics ranging from the relationship of poetry to architecture in medieval Muslim aesthetics to nineteenth-century American Orientalism, to patronage of the arts in twentieth-century collecting practices. She has taught at SUNY-New Paltz and Vassar, held fellowships at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence and published widely, including an essay in the catalog of the new Islamic galleries at the Met and articles in leading journals. She is currently co-editing a volume of essays titled *Gazing Otherwise: Modalities of Seeing in Islamic Art*, forthcoming in 2015.

In 2003 a new mosque was inaugurated in Granada, Spain overcoming belligerent opposition. At issue was the meaning of the mosque within the contexts of local, regional, national and global history, religion and politics. Constructed at the summit of the Albayzín hill facing the Alhambra, the new mosque is the focal point of entangled gazes, all embedded in pre-existing historical, political and cultural narratives, which were mobilized, accommodated, or contested by the building’s architectural design. Here is an occasion in which artistic practice and art historical research enter a fraught ideological landscape, to pose and answer sociological and political questions in terms of what will be visible (or invisible) and to whom.

Thursday, October 3rd
FLRC, Chicago Hall,
4:00 - 5:00 pm

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