You are invited to attend the next lecture in the Year of the Portuguese Speaking World series at Kennesaw State University.

**TOPIC:** “Tropical Versailles: Empire, Monarchy, and the Portuguese Royal Court in Brazil”

**PRESENTER:** Kirsten Schultz, Associate Professor of History, Seton Hall University

**DATE/TIME:** 12:30 pm on Thursday, October 22, 2015

**LOCATION:** Social Sciences Building, Room 1019, Kennesaw Campus

**ABSTRACT:**

In 1807, faced with the advance of a Napoleonic army through Iberia, the Portuguese Prince Regent Dom João, together with the royal family and thousands of courtiers, set sail for Brazil. As contemporaries and later historians have noted, it was an extraordinary event in the history of European expansion. Never before had a European monarch visited let alone set up residence in a colony. This lecture will survey how the transfer of the royal court to Rio de Janeiro challenged contemporary ideas about empire as well as the ways in which people on both sides of the Atlantic experienced the transfer of the court. As the city of Rio de Janeiro became a new American royal court and the capital of empire, newly-arrived royal officials and long-standing residents redefined cultural, social, and economic hierarchies with enduring effects.

**BIO:**

Kirsten Schultz (B.A. in History and Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley; M.A. and Ph.D. New York University) is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. She is the author of *Tropical Versailles: Empire, Monarchy and the Portuguese Royal Court in Rio de Janeiro, 1808-1821* (Routledge: 2001) and a number of articles on Brazil and the Portuguese empire in the eighteenth and early nineteenth-centuries. Her current research, funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Grant and an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, examines understandings of authority, society, and culture in the eighteenth-century Portuguese empire.

Please share this announcement with interested community members, students, faculty and staff.

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