

THE ART OF RECEPTION COMPUTING, CRYPTOGRAPHY AND THE TAPE RECORDER NOVEL IN LATIN AMERICA



TOM MCENANEY

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE,
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

WED. 11/18/15
5PM IN 14E-304

IN NOVEMBER OF 1960 THE ARGENTINE WRITER RODOLFO WALSH DECODED A CABLE ACCIDENTALLY RECEIVED BY A TELEX MACHINE IN THE HAVANA OFFICES OF THE NEWS AGENCY PRENSA LATINA, WHERE WALSH WORKED ALONGSIDE GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ. THE CABLE WAS A COMMUNIQUÉ FROM A GUATEMALAN MILITARY BASE TO THE CIA IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ABOUT PLANS FOR THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION. WALSH INFORMED FIDEL CASTRO OF THE NEWS, AND THE REST OF THE STORY IS WORLD HISTORY. BUT IS IT ALSO WORLD LITERATURE? THIS TALK EXAMINES WHAT LED WALSH TO DECODE THE TELEX MESSAGE IN HAVANA, THAT EVENT'S CONSEQUENCES ON THE CATEGORY OF LITERATURE, AND WALSH'S SUBSEQUENT CREATION OF A NEW GLOBAL FORM: THE TAPE RECORDER NOVEL.

GSL-EVENTS@MIT.EDU • MITGSL.MIT.EDU



GSL MIT Global Studies
and Languages