Personifications of the continents of Europe, Africa, Asia, and America abounded in Renaissance and Early Modern Europe. The continents, depicted as female (and sometimes male) figures, appeared in political processions, court performances, ceiling and wall frescos, maps, atlases, frontispieces, poems, travelogues, costume books, prints, paintings, textiles, ceramics, sculptures, wood pulpits, and sculptured tympanums. While the rise in the popularity of these images in the early modern period may well have been related to encounters in the Americas, which increased the number of continents in the European imagination beyond the Ptolemaic three, the tradition of personifying the continents extends back to the early middle ages and has continued to the present day. Throughout the history of this tradition, the number of continents has changed along with their human representations to reflect and reinforce ideas of both self and other.

This conference, organized by Professor Maryanne Horowitz (History, Occidental College and CMRS Associate), brings historians together with art historians, historians of cartography, and literary scholars to explore the full range of the phenomena of continent personifications and their variant significance for cultural history.

Advance registration is requested. Please register online at cmrs.ucla.edu/event/bodies-maps-personification-continents/#regform
No fee. Limited seating.

Self-pay parking in lots 2, 3, and 4. Parking information is at main.transportation.ucla.edu/campus-parking/visitors

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Cover image courtesy of Special Collections, Occidental College.
Bodies and Maps: Personification of the Continents

Friday, January 12, 2018 | UCLA Royce Hall Room 314

9:15  Coffee and light refreshments
Slide-show of engravings, contributed by Marcel van den Broecke (Cartographica Neerlandica, Bilthoven, Netherlands)

9:45  Welcoming Remarks
Massimo Ciavolella (UCLA), Director, CMRS
Maryanne Cline Horowitz (History, Occidental College and CMRS Associate)
"Introduction: Rival Interpretations of the Continent Personifications"

Session I | From Cartographical Origins to an American Collection | Chair: Teofilo Ruiz (History, UCLA)

10:30 Chet Van Duzer (Lazarus Project)
"The Pre-History of the Personification of Continents on Maps: Earth, Ocean, and the Sons of Noah"

11:00 Louise Arizzoli (Art History, University of Mississippi)
"Collecting the Four Continents: James Hazen Hyde (1876-1959), an American in Paris"

11:30 Discussion
12:00 Lunch

Session II | Sixteenth-Century Continent Personifications | Chair: Nicholas Wey-Gomez (History, California Institute of Technology)

1:30 Elizabeth Horodowich (History, New Mexico State University)
"Amerasia: The Venetian Allegories of Giuseppe Rosaccio"

Session III | Transformations | Chair: Bronwen Wilson (Art History, UCLA)

2:00 Mark Rosen (Art History, University of Texas, Dallas)
"Worlds Apart: The Four Continents and the Civitates orbis terrarium"

2:30 Discussion
3:00 Break

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2018 | UCLA Royce Hall Room 314

10:00 Coffee and light refreshments

Session IV | Sexualities and Gender Construction | Chair: Bronwen Wilson (Art History, UCLA)

10:30 Ann Rosalind Jones (Comparative Literature, Smith College)
"Dress and Undress: Allegories of the Continents on Costume-Book Title Pages"

11:00 Abdulhamit Arvas (Drama, Vassar College)
"Converting Boys: Homoerotic Encounters and Embodiment in Early Modern Spatial Imaginations"

11:30 Discussion
12:00 Lunch

Session V | Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Continent Personifications | Chair: Lynn Hunt (History, UCLA)

1:30 Maryanne Cline Horowitz (History, Occidental College)
"Continuities and Transformation in a Late Seventeenth-Century Tapestry Set"

2:00 Marion Romberg (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Modern and Contemporary Historical Research)
"The Visible Church: Visualization of the Catholic World Order in Parish Churches in the Baroque Era"

2:30 Discussion
3:00 Break

Session VI | Personification and Ethnography | Chair: Teofilo Ruiz (History, UCLA)

3:30 Valerie Traub (English and Women’s Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)
"From Allegory to Ethnography: Sex, Race, and Personification in the Early Modern Period"

4:00 Michael Wintle (European Studies, University of Amsterdam)
"Gender and Race in the Personification of the Continents in the Early Modern Period: Building Eurocentrism"

4:30 Discussion
5:00 Concluding Remarks