The English in New Spain

Please consider submitting an abstract to complete a panel for the upcoming fourth Early Ibero/Anglo Summit to be held June 2-5, 2016, at the University of Maryland, College Park. Given the conference’s theme, “Translation and Transmission in the Early Americas,” this panel addresses issues of translation and transmission within the context of early English encounters with New Spain. We seek papers that focus on the experiences of English adventurers who lived and/or traveled through New Spain or other Spanish-controlled regions of the Americas in the 16th through 18th centuries and consider how they translated and transmitted those experiences to English audiences. What were the consequences of those encounters – and not just in terms of rhetoric and language, but also in terms of political strategies, cultural practices, material culture, food, music, science and technology, etc.? We are especially interested in papers that discuss the ways in which English travelers translated, transmitted, and (quite often) manipulated knowledge about Spanish empire.

Papers might address questions such as the following: How did accounts of English travelers to New Spain, like Drake, Ralegh, and Thomas Gage, differ from those of previous generations of English writers (Eden, Hakluyt, Purchas) whose knowledge about the region was based on translated Spanish texts? How did English encounters with New Spain affect English imperial policies in terms of Black Legend rhetoric, Cromwell’s Western Design or other political strategies intended to advance English empire? How did various forms of cultural contact help or hinder English efforts to employ black legend rhetoric? How does black legend rhetoric affect the transmission/deployment of other rhetorics (related to gender, race, class, religion, etc.) that were central to an English imperial project? How did the presence of peoples other than English or Spanish figure into encounter, exploration and representation?

Depending on the kinds of projects proposed, this panel may take a traditional format, a roundtable discussion, etc. To propose a presentation, please send a description (up to one page) to Cassander Smith (clsmith17@ua.edu) and Kristina Bross (kbross@purdue.edu).