“Early Modern England and the Translation of America”

Arguably, much of the earliest knowledge that sixteenth-century Englishmen had about the Americas was the result not of empirical knowledge but rather of English translations of texts or traditions originally written or transmitted in other languages. These translations by Richard Eden, John Frampton, Richard Hakluyt, and many others profoundly inflected Early Modern English ideas about America and shaped expectations for the fledgling English colonial projects in the New World. At the same time, Englishmen such as Thomas Harriot studied indigenous American languages in order to facilitate not only proselytization but also the translation of indigenous knowledge into England. This panel invites paper proposals about any aspect of the role that translations from other languages played in the formation of early modern English ideas about the New World.

One-page paper proposals and CVs should be sent to Alejandra Dubcovsky (a.dubcovsky@yale.edu).