Critical Reading of Dr. Seuss: Not an Oxymoron

Date:
Tue, 04/19/2016 - 5:45pm to 7:00pm

Event Location:
CHC Events Hall

Event Description:
In this discussion led by Professor Maria José Botelho, of the Education department, examine the illustrations and texts of beloved children’s literature writer Dr. Seuss.

Theodore Seuss Geisel (1904-1991) already had experience in producing advertisements, creating political cartoons, and writing and illustrating children’s books when in 1957 Houghton Mifflin in Boston commissioned him to write a new early reader of 225 vocabulary words for the school market. He wrote the now canonical children’s book, The Cat in the Hat, which displaced the then-popular-Dick-and-Jane readers and launched the Beginner Books series. Dr. Seuss’s books have become a common experience for many children in the United States and other parts of the world. Many of us have a great fondness for these stories because they were a mainstay of family bedtime and school reading.

In this presentation, consider historical and biographical information to re/contextualize some of Dr. Seuss’s books by analyzing his words and images within the time and place in which they were produced. Examine the recurring cultural themes that permeate these texts and explore how these stories are historical records that offer commentary on the past and present.
RSVP if you plan to attend

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