

THE SERIES ON PUBLIC HUMANITIES PRESENTS

WELCOME BACK:

The Humanities as Civic Agency

Celebrating art and interpretation that take on social challenges, Doris Sommer steers the humanities back to engagement with the world. The reformist projects that focus her attention develop momentum and meaning as they circulate through society to inspire faith in the possible. Among the cases that she covers are top-down initiatives of political leaders, such as those launched by Antanas Mockus, former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia, and also bottom-up movements like Theatre of the Oppressed created by the Brazilian director, writer, and educator Augusto Boal. Alleging that we are all cultural agents, Sommer also takes herself to task and creates Pre-Texts, an international arts-literacy project that translates high literary theory through popular creative practices.

Wednesday, February 26, 4:15

Pigott Hall (Bldg. 260), Room 252

DORIS SOMMER

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Doris Sommer is the Ira and Jewell Williams Jr. Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University, where she is Founder and Director of Cultural Agents: Arts and Humanities in Civic Engagement. She is the author of *Bilingual Aesthetics: A New Sentimental Education* and editor of *Cultural Agency in the Americas*. She has recently published *The Work of Art in the World: Civic Agency and Public Humanities*.

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