

Photo album: CMLL Faculty Lecture Series. Assistant Professor

Regina Castro McGowan

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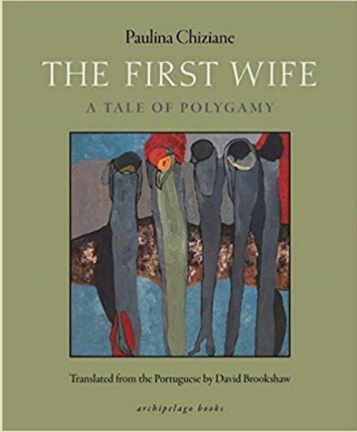
Classical and Modern Languages & Literatures

CMLL Faculty Lecture Series

Talk:

Family, Sisterhood and War Memories in Paulina Chiziane's *The First Wife, A Tale of Polygamy*

In this talk, Assistant Professor Regina Castro McGowan will be discussing *Niketche*, translated as *The First Wife* (2001), which is the first novel published by a Mozambican woman, Paulina Chiziane (winner of the Camões Literature Prize in 2021). The story follows Rami as she discovers her husband's polygamy, using her personal journey to reflect broader social realities in early 2000s Mozambique, including the lasting effects of colonial and civil wars on family structures. Through concepts such as *lugar de fala* and African womanism, the novel portrays the collective experiences of Mozambican women, highlighting how solidarity among co-wives fosters agency, sisterhood, and a critique of patriarchal norms.



Paulina Chiziane
THE FIRST WIFE
A TALE OF POLYGAMY
Translated from the Portuguese by David Brookshaw
archipelago books



Regina Castro McGowan received her Ph.D. from the City University of New York. She is currently Assistant Professor of Portuguese and Spanish, and coordinator for the Minor in Portuguese Language and Lusophone Cultures in the Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures Department of The City College of New York. Dr. Castro McGowan's teaching and research focus on Luso-Afro-Brazilian literature, historiography, film and cultural studies. Her latest works include the recent peer reviewed articles "South Atlantic Encounters: The Lusotropical Modernism of Ernesto Lara Filho's *Crônicas*" (Portuguese Cultural Studies, 2026), "'Whose Place of Speech?' Brazil's Afro- and Queer-Centric YouTube Channels and the Decentralization of *TV Globo's Telenovela* Discourse" (Social Sciences, 2025), "Protest Music, K-7 Tapes and a Hideout Place in Copacabana: Music in Brazil and Portugal During the Dictatorship" (Anppom, 2024), the book chapter "Black, Then White, Then Black Again: Brazil's Racial Politics and the Changing Face of Machado de Assis" (SUNY Press, 2024), and the bilingual critical edition of previously unpublished poems by Portuguese poet Nita Lupi (Underline, 2022).

Join us!

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026.
Time: 1:00 p. m.
Room: NAC 5/223A
Pizzas will be served / **RSVP is appreciated but not required**

