

Boldt Chair Keynote Speaker

St. Olaf Department of Romance Languages and Latin American Studies Presents:



Dra. Mariselle Meléndez, Ph.D.

Professor of Colonial Spanish
American literatures and cultures
at the University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign

Current Director of the School of
Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics
at the University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign

Languages and the Humanities: Past and Present



**Thursday
October 15th**



4:00 pm



**Tomson Hall
280**

From the eighteenth century onward, thinkers in Europe, Latin America, and the United States argued that literature, the arts, and the study of languages were essential to the formation of an engaged citizen. This talk traces that idea across these contexts and asks what it can offer us today. At a time when the humanities face mounting criticism and institutional cuts, the speaker will consider how they help people understand different histories, engage across cultures, and participate in public life. Drawing on personal experience alongside this historical perspective, the talk makes a case for the continuing importance of the humanities in a diverse society.

Snacks will be served!