“Documenting the Iskonawa of the Amazon:
Challenges to the Latin American Literary Canon”
A public lecture by José Antonio Mazzotti

Through interdisciplinary research and recent fieldwork, this talk will present an ongoing project that documents an endangered community: the Iskonawa of the Peruvian central Amazon forest. The Iskonawa oral tradition is full of knowledge about nature and survival strategies that speak volumes about the environment and the possibility of coexistence among humans and between humans and nature. However, like all indigenous societies in Latin America, the Iskonawa are threatened by deforestation, contamination, crime and drug trafficking. This case study also sheds light on canonnic texts of the indigenista literary tradition and challenges some premises of postcolonial and decolonial theory.

Thursday, October 29th, 2015
3:30 p.m.
Knight Library Browsing Room
Free and open to the public

José Antonio Mazzotti, professor of Latin American Literature in the Department of Romance Languages at Tufts University, is also president of the International Association of Peruvianists and director of the Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana. He has also authored and edited more than fifteen books, including Arequipensis (2014), Crítica de la razón heterogénea. Antonio Cornejo Polar: textos esenciales (2013), Renacimiento mestizo: los 400 años de los Comentarios reales (2010), Sakra boccata (2006, 2007 and 2013), Las flores del Mall (2009), Declinaciones latinas (antología del exilio) (2015) and Apu Kalypso / palabras de la bruma (2015).

This presentation is co-sponsored by the Oregon Humanities Center, the Anthropology Department, the Romance Languages Department, and the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies.