WHAT WAS NATIVE AMERICAN LITERATURE?
REGIONALISM, TRIBALISM, AND COMPARATIVISM IN THE AGE
OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM

Melanie Benson Taylor
Dartmouth College
Wednesday, November 28, 6:00 pm at the Train Depot


Melanie Benson Taylor (Herring Pond Wampanoag) is Associate Professor of Native American Studies. She works on the intersections of Native, African American, white, and immigrant southern cultures in her first two books, Disturbing Calculations: The Economics of Identity in Postcolonial Southern Literature, 1912-2002 (2008) and Reconstructing the Native South: American Indian Literature and the Lost Cause (2012). Her campus lecture provocatively asks: in our increasingly globalized world, is there a place for the study of discrete regions and cultural groups? As Kenneth Warren has argued for the expiration of “African American Literature,” should we also be tolling the demise of its Native American cousin? What about Southern studies? However productively we interrogate the usefulness of our disciplinary silos, we inevitably affirm our captivity within them, in spite of—indeed, because of—their enduring ideological power.

This inaugural lecture is hosted by the English Department and sponsored by the new Edith T. Baine Scholars and Writers Lecture Series. It is presented in conjunction with Native
American Heritage Month and supported by the Native American and Indigenous Working Group.