

**CRISTIAN, RÉKA**

University of Szeged

*Distinct American Destinies in Guillermo Verdecchia's Fronteras Americanas and Ian Ross' The Third Color*

The talk will scrutinize the issue of distinct destinies in the dramatic world of two contemporary Canadian playwrights, both awarded with the prestigious Governor General's Literary Award (est. 1937): the Argentinian-born Guillermo Verdecchia (b. 1962) and the Métis-Canadian Ian Ross (b. 1968). Both writers deal with a subjective cultural history that shapes various destinies through an inter-American space and given time periods; theirs is an idiosyncratic story that does not count dates or anniversaries but instead it focuses on the experience and the destiny of the individual. Verdecchia's *Fronteras Americanas* (1993), which was written to "decolonize the imagination," has a peculiar political relevance in being conceived as a subjective history lesson on the issue of Latin diaspora in the Americas. Ross' *The Third Color* (2019) presents an idiosyncratic community history of Canadian peoples, created through the dialogue of two First Nations women spirits talking over time from the pre-settler period to the current day. While the latter is an oral history with symbolic storytelling, the former has a strong political appeal. Nevertheless, both plays depict distinct destinies that are bound in the web of the history of the Americas with many similarities for Latinx and First Nations.

Réka M. Cristian (PhD, Dr habil) is Associate Professor, Chair of the American Studies Department, University of Szeged and Co-Chair of the Inter-American Research Center at the same university. Her fields of research and publication include modern American drama and American literature, film studies, American and Inter-American studies. She authored *Cultural Vistas and Sites of Identity: Literature, Film and American Studies*, co-authored with Zoltán Dragon *Encounters of the Filmic Kind: Guidebook to Film Theories* and is general and founding editor of *AMERICANA E-Journal of American Studies in Hungary* and its e-book division, *AMERICANA eBooks*.