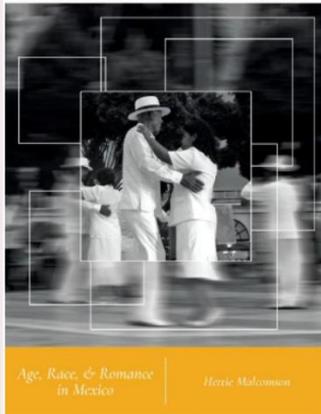


DANZÓN DAYS



**CLAS Open Seminar**

**Book launch**

Monday 20 November - 5:15pm

SG1 Ground Floor, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DT

Hettie Malcomson (University of Southampton)

**Danzón Days: Age, Race, and Romance in Mexico**

The launch will include interventions from:

Natasha Tanna (University of York)

Abeyamí Ortega (University of Manchester)

Refreshments will be served after the seminar in the Atrium, accompanied by live music from the group Charanga del Norte.



**Monday 20 November - 5:15pm**

**SG1 Ground Floor, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DT**

*Danzón Days: Age, Race, and Romance in Mexico*

Hettie Malcomson (University of Southampton)

Through ethnographic research with danzón practitioners in Veracruz, Mexico, this book analyses how music and dance intersect with aging, romance, nostalgia, and racial and national imaginaries. Most newcomers to danzón are over fifty years old, and the book argues that while younger people are often assumed to be the future of cultural practices, older practitioners form the new danzón generations. Older people's romantic lives have been largely ignored in scholarship, and the book explores how danzón practitioners navigate romance and social mores. The book disrupts utopian accounts of music and dance as merely joyful and community-building, developing a typology of ambivalence as a thinking tool. It interrogates how ambivalences around the racialization of local people and danzón enable blackness to be expedient while simultaneously making racism invisible. It brings scholarship on nostalgia into conversation with ambivalence to examine how nostalgia simultaneously reproduces and erases inequalities. It explores how danzón underwent a non-heritage revival from the 1980s, and how the dance assumed a modernist aesthetic linked to elegance, whiteness, elite cosmopolitanism, nationalism, and colonial violence. And it analyses dance group dynamics, exploring how intimacy threatens group cohesion. The book is structured like a danzón in rondo form (ABACAD): fictional vignettes appear between the academic chapters to illuminate the richness of danzón practitioners' lives.

The launch will include interventions from:

Natasha Tanna (University of York)

Abeyamí Ortega (University of Manchester)

Refreshments will be served after the seminar in the Atrium, accompanied by live music from the group **Charanga del Norte** (Sue Miller - flute, Kim Burton – keyboards, and Dave Pattman - timbales).