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Evelyn Hu-DeHart is Professor of History, American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University, USA. During AY 2015-16, she is Visiting Professor in the History Programme of HSS. She received her B.A. from Stanford University and her PhD in Latin American and Caribbean history from the University of Texas at Austin. She has written and edited more than 10 books and over 60 articles, in English, Spanish and Chinese, on three main topics: Indigenous peoples of the US-Mexico borderlands; the Chinese and other Asian diasporas in Latin America and the Caribbean; race and ethnicity in the Americas. Her most recent publications are on Latino politics in the U.S. (New

York University Press, 2014) and on the Chinese diaspora in Latin America and Caribbean in Chinese (Beijing: Zhejiang U. Press, 2015). While at NTU, she is interested in sharing research interests and scholarship with scholars in Singapore and the rest of Asia; most of all, she hopes to learn about new methods and perspectives, and to delve into new historical archives and materials. At Brown, she is a founder and co-director of the long term digital project on "Asia-Pacific in the Making of the Americas," and with her alma mater Stanford University, she is a founder and principal investigator of the Chinese Railroad Workers of North American Project. Both research projects involve international collaborators from Asia and Latin America, and include strong Public Humanities as well as Digital Humanities components. Please check out our websites: <http://web.stanford.edu/group/chineserailroad/cgi-bin/wordpress/> and <http://www.brown.edu/conference/asia-pacific/home>

The Manila Galleon Trade: The Forgotten Transpacific Silk Road of the Spanish American Empire, from Manila to Acapulco, 1565-1815

Although Christopher Columbus missed his intended destination of Asia (*Las Indias*) in 1492, instead landing in the New World of America, his failure certainly did not dissuade other Iberian explorers from finding maritime passages to Asia, while awakening continuous fascination with America. In 1497, the adventurous Portuguese Vasco da Gama sailed around the Atlantic and the tip of Africa into the Indian Ocean and Asia. From 1519-22, the intrepid duo of Magellan and Elcano circumnavigated the world from Spain by crossing the Atlantic, rounding the tip of South America into the Pacific, and across the Indian Ocean back to Spain. Blessed by the Pope and his imaginary Tordesillas line, the Spaniards colonized Mesoamerica and renamed it New Spain in 1521. From this American colony, commonly known as Mexico after the native people of the vanquished Aztec empire, the Crown dispatched Miguel López de Legazpi in 1564 to colonize Manila in order to trade with Great China. The following year, his navigator, the Augustinian monk Andrés de Urdaneta, sailed back across the Pacific to Acapulco, Mexico, taking back with him quantities of silk and other beautiful Chinese and Asian merchandise bought with Mexican silver. Thus was launched the Manila Galleon Trade in 1565, the first global commercial system that endured for 250 years until 1815. This paper explores the transpacific space of the Manila Galleon

