The Departments of

Spanish and Portuguese
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invite you to a

Horizons of Knowledge
Lecture by

Irene Ramalho Santos

BEING BLIND – BEING NOBODY –
BEING A POET
EMILY DICKINSON ‘READS’
FERNANDO PESSOA

Monday, November 6, 2017
5:30pm
Global and International Studies Building 2134

Fernando Pessoa’s indebtedness to the English language poets he read and knew well has been amply studied. In this paper, Benjamin’s notion of “constellations of ideas” is invoked to look at Pessoa and Dickinson as poets of one constellation. There is no evidence that Pessoa ever read Dickinson, and Dickinson, of course, could not have read Pessoa at all. However, it is possible to overhear a dialogue going on between the two poets. Dickinson’s poems often sound as if she has indeed read Pessoa and chooses to respond to him by elaborating on his poetic imagining.

Professor emerita of the University of Coimbra and International Affiliate of the Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Irene Ramalho Santos is author of Atlantic Poets, “Poetry in the Machine Age” (Cambridge History of American Literature, V), and of numerous essays on a variety of subjects, as well as co-editor of several volumes, including Poesia do mundo, The American Columbiad, Translocal Modernisms, Transnational, Post Imperialist American Studies?, Estudos Feministas e Cidadania Plena, and America Where?