ABSTRACT:
This talk develops a framework for understanding empire and diversity by defining and discussing toleration and persecution within the context of particular historical examples. I argue that imperial states maintain rule over multi-religious and multi-ethnic diversity through a variety of policies from the “toleration” of diversity and its incorporation to forced conversion and assimilation. Empires have differed along this continuum, and within the same empire different moments in history have given rise to different policies as well. I theorize four different strategies that empires exhibit toward ethnic and religious communities; toleration, persecution, assimilation and expulsion. Such outcomes, I argue, emerge out of imperial understandings of difference and imperial willingness to use violence.

Thursday, January 22
4:30 - 6:00 pm
Stanford Humanities Center, Board Room

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