Dr. Martha S. Santos is associate professor of history at the University of Akron. She is a specialist in Brazilian and Latin American history. Her research interests include gender history, violence, slavery, and the history of popular culture. She is author of *Cleansing Honor with Blood: Masculinity, Violence, and Power in the Backlands of Northeast Brazil, 1845-1889* (Stanford University Press, 2012) and is currently working on a book project entitled “Engendering Slavery: Mothering Slaves, Labor, and Reproduction in Nineteenth-Century Brazil, 1813-1884.” She held the Santander Fellowship from the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University (2013-14) and her research has also been funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation.

The title of her talk is:

**Enslaved Women, Motherhood, and Labor in the Hinterlands of Northeast Brazil, Ceará, 1813-1884**

This talk calls into question much of the literature on African slavery in Brazil, which tends to describe the experience of slavery by assuming the gender-neutral term “slave” and failing to address the different types of oppression that enslaved men and enslaved women faced within the slaveholding regime. By contrast, Dr. Santos demonstrates that slavery in the nineteenth-century Brazilian Northeastern province of Ceará took advantage of both the productive and reproductive labor of female slaves. That is, far from being employed only as "domestic servants," enslaved women worked in agriculture, animal raising, as well as household service for their masters. In addition, enslaved women performed the childbearing and childrearing labor that was responsible for the reproduction of the slave work force at the provincial level.

*Soft drinks and snacks will be available: we look forward to seeing you there.*