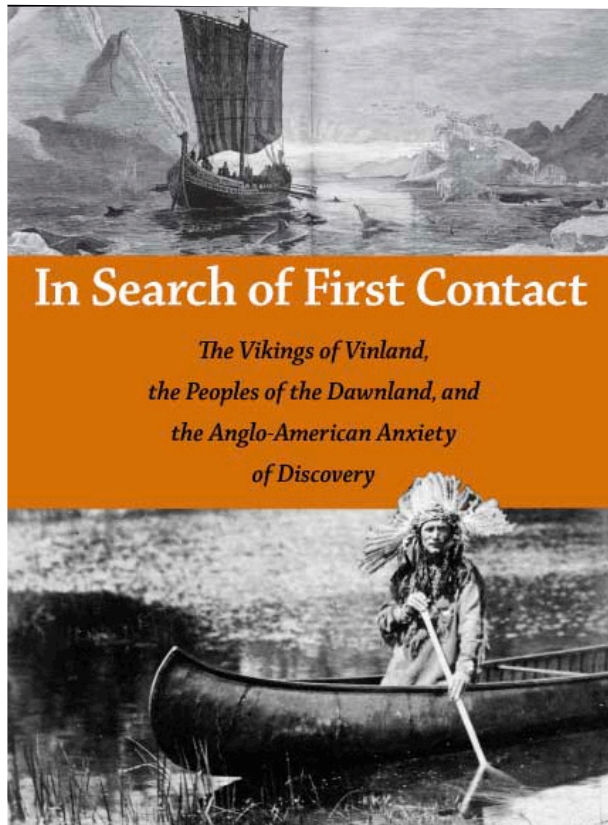


The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
in cooperation with the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences,
the Center for Italian American Studies, the American Studies Program,
and the Department of English,
presents*

From Brooklyn College to Vinland and Back



In *In Search of First Contact*, Annette Kolodny offers a radically new interpretation of two medieval Icelandic tales, known as the Vinland sagas. She contends that they are the first known European narratives about contact with North America. After carefully explaining the evidence for that conclusion, Kolodny examines what happened after 1837, when English translations of the two sagas became widely available and enormously popular in the United States. She assesses their impact on literature, immigration policy, and concepts of masculinity. Kolodny considers what the sagas reveal about the Native peoples encountered by the Norse in Vinland around the year A.D. 1000, and she recovers Native American stories of first contacts with Europeans, including one that has never before been shared outside of Native communities. These stories contradict the dominant narrative of “first contact” between Europeans and the New World. Kolodny rethinks the lingering power of a mythic American Viking heritage and the long-standing debate over whether Leif Eiriksson or Christopher Columbus should be credited as the first discoverer. With this paradigm-shattering work, Kolodny shows what literary criticism can bring to historical and social scientific endeavors.

Annette Kolodny is College of Humanities Professor Emerita of American Literature and Culture at the University of Arizona. She is the author of *Failing the Future: A Dean Looks at Higher Education in the Twenty-first Century* and the editor of *The Life and Traditions of the Red Man*, by Joseph Nicolai, both also published by Duke University Press. In addition, she is the author of *The Land Before Her: Fantasy and Experience of the American Frontiers, 1630-1860*, and *The Lay of the Land: Metaphor as Experience and History in American Life and Letters*.

Wednesday, October 10, 2012
5:05 to 6:20 p.m.
State Lounge
Brooklyn College Student Center
Campus Road and East 27th Street

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