FRIDAY,

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12:00 PM (ET)

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CERES Brown Bag Talk:

The Devil Inside, or the Allegorization of Cultural Anxieties about National Sovereignty as Demonic Possession in post-2008 Spanish Horror Film

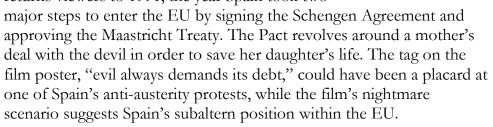
Dr. Scott Boehm

Assistant Professor of 20th/21st Spanish Culture

Sovereignty has been a crucial frame for narrating the economic crisis experienced in Spain in the wake of the 2008 financial meltdown that sparked the Great Recession. Spain's crisis was typically characterized as a "sovereign debt crisis" by the neoliberal establishment. Such framing helped rationalize the harsh austerity measures imposed upon Spain. It also led to the €100 million bailout of Spanish banks by the Eurogroup in 2012, which was one of the key mechanisms

through which bank losses were converted into an issue of national sovereignty.

In the wake of what Spanish activists denounced as "a financial coup," a pair of Spanish horror films featuring demonic possession appeared: Paco Plaza's 2017 Netflix hit Veronica and David Victori's 2018 directorial debut The Pact. Verónica returns viewers to 1991, the year Spain took two



This presentation will analyze the allegorization of cultural anxieties about national sovereignty as demonic possession in both films within the context of crisis Spain, which is part of a larger project that examines Spanish horror film production during and after the Great Recession.