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*In a Glass Darkly: Jesuit Advice for a Mughal Prince*

Thursday, March 23, 2017
4:30pm
Candler School of Theology, Room 360
Emory University

The genre of the "Mirror for Princes" was widely known across medieval and early modern Eurasia. This talk focuses on a curious text entitled "Adab us-Sultanat" or "Directorio dos Reys" that was written in the early seventeenth century and presented to the Mughal emperor, Jahangir (r. 1605-27). Its ostensible author is the Jesuit Jerome Xavier (1549-1617). But there is, in fact, a second author whose role deserves greater attention—a certain Maulana 'Abdus Sattar ibn Qasim Lahauri. Between the two, they produced a hybrid work that follows the broad format of Indo-Persian "advice literature" (or akhlaq) while at the same time carrying some intriguing traces of a Machiavellian substratum.