

The lunch seminar series fosters intellectual exchange among Latin Americanists at Princeton and encourages dialogue between various disciplines.

Seminars are free and open to the public, and take place at 12 p.m. in 216 Burr Hall. Lunch is provided.

Pulled Out of the Closet?: International Women's Year and the Event of the Mexican Lesbian

Jocelyn Olcott - Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies & Duke University

Mexican feminist literature on the 1975 International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City presents starkly dichotomous views of its importance. Although the historiography on transnational feminism often depicts the conference as a watershed moment, Mexican feminists, many of whom received their political education during the 1968 student protests, viewed these officially endorsed proceedings with suspicion and mentioned them principally as a backdrop to the more radical counter-conferences orchestrated by leftist and feminist organizations. Lesbian feminists, however, continue to point to the 1975 conference as the moment that Mexican lesbians emerged, as activist Claudia Hinojosa put it, "out of the darkest corners of the closet." Olcott's lecture considers what philosopher Alain Badiou might call the "event" of the Mexican lesbian—the "interpretive intervention" during which a subject is named and interpreted as such—and argues for the critical role of cosmopolitanism in framing this interpretive intervention.

Community Development and Colombia's Cold War, 1960–1966

Robert Karl - Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Department of History

Karl recasts Colombia's Cold War experience in the 1960s by emphasizing peaceful forms of political participation in community development programs rather than the traditional focus on violence and insurgency. No government initiative in the 1960s involved as many people as the community development movement, which also brought in Colombian academics, clergy, and students, making it a dense site of Cold War activity, as contesting groups sought to define the direction and content of community development. Karl highlights the transnational nature of the movement, going beyond U.S. foreign aid programs to consider how different kinds of transnational networks influenced the movement. He also underscores the deep ambivalence of "progress" in Latin America's so-called "decade of development."

Latin American Literature Looking East

Gustavo Guerrero - Wednesday, November 11, 2009

Program in Latin American Studies & Université de Picardie Jules Verne

The relationship between contemporary Latin American literature and the cultures of Asia, which until now have received little attention, are longstanding, extensive, and significant. Indeed, these relations, which began with modernism, run through nearly the entire twentieth century. The early travels of Mexican José Juan Tablada (1871–1945) to Japan in 1900 reconnect two histories which had been united earlier for several centuries by the Spanish Empire. Tablada was followed by Argentine Ricardo Buiraledes (1886–1927) and Chilean Pablo Neruda (1904–1973), who visited Asia in the 1910s and 1920s. Later, rediscovering their common past and creating new ways of rethinking their identity, twentieth-century Latin American writers, like Jorge Luis Borges (1899–1986), Octavio Paz (1914–1998) and Severo Sarduy (1937–1993), distanced themselves from Westerners' visions of Asia and opened the way for a different and unique intercultural dialogue. Beyond examining these individual cases, Guerrero approaches the larger phenomena from a comparative perspective, tracing the evolution of these relations over time.

Memories of the Future: Images, Narratives, Monuments and the Aesthetics of Memory in Brazil and Argentina

Beatriz Jaguaribe de Mattos - Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Program in Latin American Studies & Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

Jagaribe examines how the future, envisioned as access to a redemptive national modernity, was projected via narratives, images, and monuments during the Vargas era (1930–1945) in Brazil and the Perón regimes (1946–1955) in Argentina. From a contemporary perspective, she examines how these fabrications of the future were converted into modernist ruins, consumer nostalgia, media products, and monumental sites. By exploring public photography, the rhetoric of propaganda in graphic design, specific architectural constructions, and imagined monuments, she seeks to understand what has become of these legacies, how they respond to current cultural predicaments, and how they are disputed in contending politics of national memory.

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