

La Compañera



April 18, 2014

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Photo: Anna Persmark, '15
Socio-Cultural Field Research in Guatemala

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Foro Latinoamericano

April 25-26, 2014

“The Politics of Memory and Forgetting in Latin America”

Many years after the end of the wave of South American Dictatorships and Central American wars, the culture of impunity persists and the quest for justice continues in Latin America. Forty years have passed since the Chilean coup and the struggle to remember and to end impunity is bearing fruits: the unprecedented trial against Guatemalan General Ríos Montt for genocide, the sentencing of the Salvadoran war criminal Colonel Montano for making false statements in immigration papers upon entering the United States are examples of the importance of remembering. In this year’s Foro, our speakers will help us understand how different social actors in different historical, cultural, and political contexts make sense of past political violence in different countries in the region. We will explore how postwar and postdictatorship societies create meaning through their quests for justice, truth commissions, memorials, commemorations, and creative cultural practices such as film and literature.

Schedule of Events

Friday, April 25 (Weitz Cinema)

5:00 p.m. **Welcome**

**Professor Beverly Nagel,
Dean of the College**

Film Presentation:
“The Tiniest Place”

Colloquium with the Director:
Tatiana Huezo Sánchez
Reception to follow

Dinner (invited guests only)

Saturday, April 26 (Athenaeum)

9:00 a.m. Coffee and rolls

9:30 a.m. **Michael Lazzara**
“Complicity and Responsibility in
the Aftermath of the Pinochet
Dictatorship: The Case of ‘El Mocito’”

10:30 a.m. **Katherine Hite**
“Empathic Unsettling and the
Outsider Within Spaces of Memory”

11:30 a.m. **Roundtable Discussion**

Lunch (invited guests only)

LTAM Studies Comps Defenses

May 1, 2014, 5:00-6:30pm

LTAM Studies majors will present their Senior Comprehensive Exercises in Gould Library Athenaeum.



Katie Blansett: "From *Modernismo* to the Modern Nation: State and Culture in the *Estado Novo*"

Holly Buttrey: "Hip Hop in Cuba: The Underground Sphere for Expressive Youth"

POSC Comps Defense

April 22, 5:00pm

Katie's Comps in Political Science and International Relations will be presented in Willis 211.

Katie Blansett: "A Resource-Based Revolution? The Impact of Indigenous Movements on National Resource Policy in Ecuador & Bolivia"

International Film Forum

Screenings in Weitz Cinema, Thursdays at 7:00pm

April 25, 2014: *El lugar más pequeño* (*The Tiniest Place*). Tatiana Huezo. El Salvador/Mexico. Colloquium with the director follows the screening. Part of the 2014 Foro Latinoamericano.

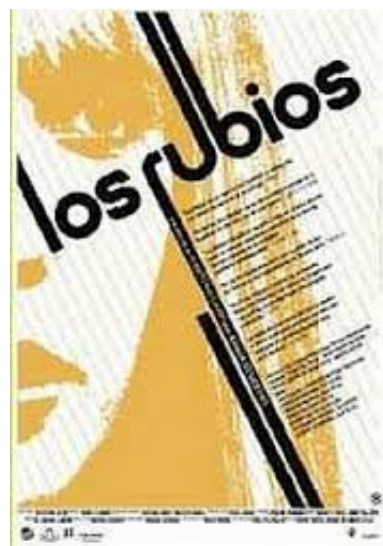


“On the surface *The Tiniest place* is the story of Cinquera, a village literally wiped off the official map during El Salvador’s 12-year civil war. But on a deeper level it is a story about the ability to rise, to rebuild and reinvent oneself after tragedy.”

-Icarus Films

May 13, 2014: *Los Rubios* (*The Blondes*). Albertina Carri. Argentina. Colloquium with screenwriter Alan Pauls follows screening.

“Albertina Carri’s second feature is a look at Argentina’s recent history from the perspective of a generation forced to mourn those of whom they have no recollection. Carri, who lost her parents to Argentina’s brutal military junta when she was three years old, travels through Buenos Aires with her crew to unravel the factual and emotional mysteries of her parents’ life, disappearance and death.” –Women Make Movies



Victimization and Culpability:

OCS Fieldwork in Guatemala Winter 2014



This past winter, Carleton Professor Jay Levi led a group of 11 students in Guatemala and Chiapas. They traveled through highlands and jungles, ventured into a Zapatista community, explored Mayan ceremonies, and delved into coursework on the culture of the Ancient Maya and their contemporary counterparts. Three weeks of the program consisted of independent fieldwork on topics proposed by students. Sophomore **Stu Lourey** embarked on a particularly challenging and powerful exploration of the Guatemalan Civil War.

Stu is particularly intrigued by the relationships between the United States and Latin America. He is captivated by conflict studies and culpability, which led to his choice of his highly charged topic: the 36 year Civil War, or *La Violencia*. Stu conducted research through rigorous fieldwork, relationship building, and careful observation and listening. His findings that both sides of the war contained many indigenous soldiers challenge the popular dichotomy of indigenous guerillas against rich Ladinos. Stu wanted to answer whether or not indigenous ex-soldiers “conceive of themselves as victims or aggressors” and found that the indigenous soldiers feel both victimized and culpable for their actions.

Stu’s experiences in Guatemala have ignited his desire to learn more. Currently, in the course *Issues in Latin American Studies* (LTAM 300) Stu is exploring these questions further in preparation for future fieldwork. He plans to return to highland Guatemala in the coming year to continue his research, perhaps as part of a SO/AN Comps, and perhaps to take his work even further.

Meet Adron Mason

Recently declared LTAM concentrator

Last week, sophomore Adron Mason declared his concentration in Latin American Studies. Through upper-level coursework in Spanish, Adron first discovered his passion for Latin American art and literature. He was particularly fascinated by *The Poem as Artifact* (SPAN 277), where he studied Modernismo, La Vanguardia, and contemporary poetry, as well as *Myth and History in Central American Literature* (SPAN 262). Currently, he is immersing himself in the literature of Jorge Luis Borges in SPAN 366. Adron has relished learning about regions beyond his horizons through works written in their original language.



Since taking these classes, Adron has branched out to LTAM coursework in a variety of departments. He finds history, his major, to be a rewarding lens through which to study the world. He is fascinated by colonial history and the different voices that it reveals not only in Latin American, but also in India and Ireland.

Adron hopes to continue his LTAM coursework abroad. He is considering several programs, including Socio-Cultural Field Research in Guatemala (led by Prof. Jay Levi) as well as Society, Culture, and Language in Peru (Prof. José Cerna-Bazán). ACM's Costa Rica program is also of interest since it focuses on research in the humanities, which Adron hopes to pursue while abroad.