The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1940

A path breaking study by Michael J. Gonzales

In this new book, Michael J. Gonzales, NIU’s senior Latin American historian and director of the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, presents a path breaking overview of the first social revolution of the twentieth century. All those interested in Mexico’s revolutionary era, including students, will find Gonzales’s interpretation both instructive and engaging. Based on archival sources and an extensive secondary literature, the study examines the revolution from its origins in the Díaz dictatorship through the presidency of radical General Lázaro Cárdenas.

Gonzales’s sweeping analysis of the revolutionary process includes discussions of agrarian insurgencies, shifting alliances among revolutionaries, counter-revolutions, and foreign interventions to delineate the triumphs and failures of revolutionary leaders such as Francisco I. Madero, Pancho Villa, Emiliano Zapata, Álvaro Obregón, and Venustiano Carranza. What emerges is a clear understanding of the tangled events of the period and a fuller appreciation of the efforts of revolutionary presidents after 1916 to reinvent Mexico amid the limitations imposed by a war-torn countryside, a hostile international environment, and the resistance of the Catholic Church and large landowners.

Gonzales’s conclusions refute the notion, popular in some ideological circles, that the revolution simply produced a change in political leadership without creating meaningful reform. He writes: “The revolution threw out the old guard, reinvented the state, and made possible historic social and economic reforms. The revolutionary state gave landless peasants hundreds of thousands of hectares of land, nationalized foreign-owned petroleum companies, and significantly expanded public education. If the final outcome failed to eradicate poverty, create democracy, or achieve economic independence, the event still remains revolutionary.”

The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1940 is published by University of New Mexico Press, 2002.
Viaje a Trilce by Monique J. Lemaître
(Mexico: Plaze y Valdés)

Dr. Monique J. Lemaître, Professor of Spanish-American Cultures and Literatures in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Northern Illinois University, has just published a detailed analysis of all 77 poems contained in Peruvian poet César Vallejo’s avant garde book of poetry Trilce.

The original research for this book was sponsored by the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies at NIU, which enabled Professor Lemaître to spend two months in Lima, Peru, doing research at the National Library and interviewing several Vallejo scholars in Lima and Trujillo.

The recently published book has been praised for its rigorous scholarly approach and its poetic intuition by scholars such as Juan Pellicer, Rafael Gutiérrez Girardot and other Latin American poetry specialists. Its first scheduled public presentation in Mexico City had to be cancelled due to conflicting schedules, but it will be presented by the Director of “Texto Crítico” at the International Congress honoring the 100th birthday of Cuba’s National Poet, Nicolás Guillén, at the University of Veracruz, in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, May 14-17, 2002.

VALE Conference Features Juan Ramírez

The 7th Annual Latino Leadership Conference, held on February 22, 2002, featured noted Latino film producer and director Juan Antonio Ramírez as keynote speaker. Conference attendees also enjoyed a showing of his latest film, “Israel in Exile.”

A native of Chicago, Ramírez has been active in theatre, film, and television for over 20 years. Artistic Director and co-founder of The Latino Chicago Theater Company, he has produced over 30 plays and has worked as a director and actor with most of Chicago’s major theatres. In addition, he has worked with such noteworthy actors as Tommy Lee Jones, Gene Hackman, Sidney Poitier, Tim Roth, Scott Glenn, and Helen Hunt and such talented directors as Ron Howard, Andy Davis, Peter Bogdanovich, and Bill Duke. Film acting credits include featured roles in “Backdraft,” “The Package,” “The Fugitive,” “In the Company of Darkness,” “Chain Reaction,” and “Hoodlums.” Among Ramírez’s television credits include the role of detective Carlos Marrone, a series regular on the ABC dramatic series “Missing Persons,” in which he co-starred with Daniel J. Travanti.

Ramírez received his film training at The Chicago Community Film Workshop under the late Jim Taylor and through his professional relationship with the Hollywood industry, including a season of work with noted cinematographer Peter Gilbert of “Hoop Dreams” fame.

“Israel in Exile” marks Ramírez’s directorial debut for a feature film. The film is recognized as Chicago’s first theatrical Latino feature and was the only Latino film selected for screening this year at the prestigious SLAMDANCE film Festival. Other projects include, “The Coldest Days of My Life,” “Blackbird,” and a series pilot for television, “Weeds.”
Winifred Creamer
Anthropology

Publications

Summer Research in Peru
“Our research focused on identifying sites dating to the late preceramic period (2500-1800 BC) that have the earliest large pyramids built in the New World, along with sunken circular plazas, which are probably associated with ritual activities.”

Jorge Jeria
CAHE Department, Adult Education

Publications
“A Influencia do Pensamento do Professor Paulo Freire no Chile e Estados Unidos,” in Paulo Freire-Quando as ideias e os afetos se cruzan, ed. M. N. Dos Santos Lima & A. Rozas, Recife: Editora Universitaria Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, pp. 217-231.

Papers
“Freire, Habermas. Una discusión sobre el concepto de teoría crítica y su aplicación usando las categorías de conocimiento en Habermas.” Tercer Coloquio Internacional Paulo Freire, Recife, Brazil. Universidad Federal de Pernambuco.
“A educación inclusiva e a pedagogia crítica na educação popular.” Duas aproximações paradigmáticas. Primer Congreso de Educación Inclusiva, João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil.

Workshops
“Globalización y la nueva concepción de la universidad.” Universidad de Santiago de Chile (USACH) Santiago, Chile.

Director
International Education Seminar, Brazil. Planned and executed a program for graduate and undergraduate students from Northern Illinois University on social movements, Freirean theory and Afro-Brazilian culture in Northeast Brazil in cooperation with Universidade Federal da Paraíba, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco and Universidade Estadual de Bahia, and Acacia, a Brazilian NGO working in non-formal education and environmental issues.

Rousing Performance by Los Folkloristas

Known for their preservation of Latin American folk music, Mexico’s Los Folkloristas delivered a charged performance at Northern Illinois University on October 15, 2001. Traditional musical instruments, including numerous guitars, sea and turtle shells, a harp, pipe instruments, violins, and drums, electrified the hall while many from the audience sang along. During the performance, the group provided cultural notes, making the evening both entertaining and educational.

“Los Folkloristas” features seven superb musicians who have traveled together for 25 years, performed together over 2,000 times, and recorded 30 albums. Their craft preserves the traditional and even obscure music of Latin America while also demonstrating their skill with contemporary rhythms. Introductory narratives pointed to Veracruz, Ecuador, Panama, Oaxaca, Argentina, and Yucatán as some cultural contributors to the group’s repertoire.

The group’s pride and enthusiasm for its work and homeland permeated the performance. The violin and flute medley displayed a truly fervent love for Mexico and its culturally diverse heritage.

Encuentro 2002 3
New Faculty Associate: Louise Ciallella

Foreign Language and Literatures

I’m originally from New England, and still love it and the ocean. But, I spent a considerable portion of my adult life in Madrid, Spain, after my junior year in college there. I returned to the States to finish my B.A. in Spanish at Salve Regina College, however, and then received my M.A. in Spanish Literature from New York University. International publishing was my first career. After moving definitively back to the States, I discovered I loved to teach, and started a second career in teaching at the university level. In May of 2000, I was pleased to receive a Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Among other experiences, I have taught English as a Foreign Language for five summers at Brown University, and worked with Brown’s Hispanics Department on editorial projects, including Julio Ortega’s critical edition of César Vallejo’s Tríce (1991). I edited the American edition of Cómo se comenta un texto literario (Writing about Literary Texts), by Fernando Lázaro Carreter and Evaristo Correa Calderón, when it was translated and published by Alan F. Farrell and Jorge A. Silveira in 1986.

Here at NIU, I am particularly pleased to teach Business Spanish from a linguistic / stylistic point of view within cultural contexts, practical applications, and case studies. In summer of 2001, I had the pleasure of attending a CIEE seminar in Santiago de Chile and Buenos Aires, on economic reform, regional integration, and democratization in Argentina and Chile.

In general, my research centers principally on the imaging of power with respect to gender and class “definition”. My specific area of interest in literature is 19th-century Spanish narrative, most especially realism and the shift to modernism / the crisis in Spain at the turn of the 20th century. Other related interests include the effect of dictatorships on literature and ‘popular’ texts, such as periodicals and film. Within this focus, and in terms of Latin American texts, I have presented conference papers on the meaning of “ser hombre” in Pablo Neruda and Julia de Burgos’s poetry; and Diamela Eltit and Paz Errázuriz’s joint photography/narrative work, El infarto del alma. A forthcoming paper concerns the imaging of women in the Argentinian filmmaker Fernando Solanas’s La hora de los hornos and Tangos/El exilio de Gardel. An article on the persistence of Franco’s constructs of the ‘feminine’ in Carmen Martín Gaite’s El cuarto de atrás has been accepted for publication in a collection of essays on Franco’s legacy in contemporary Spanish discourse.

I continue to work on gender and class constructs at the turn of last century in Spain. Among other projects, I am developing articles on the discourse in women’s columns from a liberal Madrid newspaper, and the effects of women’s middle-class roles and new readership in the same period. I am also working on the importance of language in business contexts, from the point of view of both my business and teaching experiences.
New Faculty Associate: **Lucrecia Blanco-Trimble**

School of Theater and Dance

I work in theater. More specifically, I design lights for dance, theater, and opera productions. My interest is in the theater as a social tool, the theater as a place to not only show beauty or spectacle, but more importantly to tell the various stories of our lives. In my work, I keep a focus on the representation of different cultures on stage. I have worked with several Latino theater groups and have also collaborated with directors and guest artists from France, Hungary, Colombia, Trinidad, Argentina, the United States, and many others. As the only Latino professor in my department I have become a resource for cultural issues and a source of information on other cultures. This has been a challenging and fulfilling role for me, though one for which my background has prepared me less than one might imagine.

I am originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina. I am a “Porteña,” meaning “from the port,” as they call people from Buenos Aires. Buenos Aires is considered a not-so-Latino city by the rest of Latin America, it’s considered a fairly Latino city by the Europeans, it’s not considered at all by Americans, and to Porteños it’s the Paris of South America and the center of the world. In the 20 years that I spent in my home country, I never thought of myself, my family, or my friends as Latino, or as having any special cultural background. Diversity is apparently not an issue in the Porteño mind. I have a theory about this: in Argentina, as in other developing countries, there are always more urgent issues concerning people: having food on the table, finding a decent job, walking safely down the street, or in the not-so-distant past, not getting killed for what you thought.

Diversity, although very important, is not high on the priority list.

While growing up, I had the opportunity to travel all over my country and to many other countries as well. These travels opened my mind to the differences among peoples and the richness of other cultures, but in hindsight, I see that I was not fully aware of many things. When I was in Argentina, the concept of being Latino was nonexistent. Everyone around me was Latino as well. When I came here, I found myself part of a minority -- the Latino community -- and had to think about issues of belonging, assimilation, social significance, and other things I hadn’t dealt with before.

The journey from being a person like every other person around me to being a representative of Latino culture and a spokeswoman for cultural diversity has been interesting and challenging.

---

**Collection of lacustrine clays in the Chalco Basin, Mexico for research on sorption and biodegradation of methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE)**

_Rosa M. Leal-Bautista and Melissa Lenczewski_  
_Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences_  
_Seed 2001_

The research supported by the Center for Latino and Latin American studies was to evaluate sorption and biodegradation of methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) on lacustrine clays from Mexico. MTBE is an additive in gasoline that allows for cleaner burning of fuels to improve air quality. However, the use of MTBE contaminates groundwater and is currently the largest ground water contaminant in the USA. In Mexico, MTBE has been blended in the two types of gasoline (Magna-Sin and Premium) and is sold by the state-owned oil company (PEMEX). The aquifer that underlies Mexico D.F. stores a great volume of water, but is strictly restricted due to subsidence that affects this zone.

Consequently, other sources of uncontaminated drinking water are needed to supply water in the metropolitan area. One of these alternative sources is the Chalco Basin. The research grant allowed us to survey the Chalco Basin (August 13-21) and to collect lacustrine clay samples from the aquitard to determine if this clay will absorb MTBE thus protecting the underlying aquifer. In addition, it was possible to connect a geological perspective with the social aspects and the problems of public administration that affect this zone.

The fieldwork started at the southeast of the Chalco plain, at an industrial corridor close to the Mexico-Puebla highway. This area has an industrial infrastructure consisting of an electronic (continued on page 6)
Francisco Solares-Larrave
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
Editor, Journal, Cultura de Guatemala

Publication

Papers


"Memorias (críticas) de la modernidad: El zorro de Ignacio Altamirano (1901).” 43rd Annual Convention of the M/MLA. Cleveland, Ohio, November 2001.


"Del texto sutil que pasa o se posa' en los relatos de Enrique Jaramillo Levi.” IX Congreso Internacional de Literatura Centro Americana (CILCA). Belize City, Belize, February-March 2001.

Committees
MLA Executive Committee on Spanish American Literature from the Independence to 1900, January 2002 - December 2006

(continued from page 5)

plant, a palette construction company, and jeans manufacturing company, just to name of few. A sewage canal surrounds the zone with a potable water pumping station located just 300 m away. Over the last few years, the area has also seen bigger domestic settlements within the鹈鹕不能把这四个话题都做到

The second core sample was obtained in the town of Chalco, which is a semi-urban zone where the water supplies, sewage drainage, and other public services are scarcely present. The quality of the groundwater is directly related with the quality of life and the well being of the population. In this area, groundwater studies by the government and other institutions have focused on the distribution of water and the number of supply wells, but very few have focused on the

(continued on page 7)
Monique J. Lemaître

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Book

Articles

“Huellas de Cervantes en la selva Lacandona de Chiapas, México.” accepted for publication in Proceedings of the XXXIII Congress of the International Institute of Iberoamerican Literatures.

Papers
“Some Gender issues in Rosario Castellanos’s short stories of Ciudad Real.” Buenos Aires, Argentina, June, 2001

Research in Progress
I continue to do research and write on the literary aspects of EZLN’s Subcommander Marcos’s stories and comuniqués. This work in progress also involves researching the history of Chiapas since 1492, and the history, culture, and civilization of the Maya.

(continued from page 6)

potential for contamination. Since the groundwater level is shallow (around 1.5 m), the potential for contamination can directly affect the inhabitants, especially the children.

We also collected two core samples in locations at the central and the edge of the basin at San Miguel Xico and Sta. Cruz Mixquic. In this area, surface agricultural practices and increased population density influence the groundwater quality. The clays in this region were richer in organic matter and were formed under different geological conditions from the two first samples. Gas stations were not located in this area. However, these locations are growing in population, and there is a strong presence of transport activities.

The Chalco Basin represents different social situations with different ways to obtain water. In the town of Chalco and the industrial corridor, the delivery of water is by trucks (pipas) distributing water to homes that originated from the potable water pumping station located in the industrial corridor or from local wells. One concern expressed by the local people is that they think that contamination is present in the water. They have detected bad smells, bad colors, and people get sick easily if they do not boil the water. Even though the distribution of water is an immense problem for the whole area, the people around Xico and Mixquic have the opportunity to use artesian wells that make a positive difference in the quality of their life.

Overall, the fieldwork was successful and will allow for completion of research on absorption of MTBE to clays. Beyond the goal of obtaining samples, it was clear from visiting these areas the importance of environmental geological studies at the Chalco Basin and the necessity to continue this type of research.

---

Research Grant Awards for 2002

**FACULTY**
Winifred Creamer - Anthropology
Melissa Lenczewski - Geology
Eugene Perry - Geology
Jose Carrasquel - Foreign Lang. and Lit.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS**
Rebecca Bria - Anthropology
Jennifer Truschka - Political Science
Rosa Maria Leal-Bautista - Geology
David Goldberg - Political Science

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**
Maria Gabriela Cervantes - Anthropology

**Robert Marcelin Memorial Scholarship Recipient**

**Other Monetary Awards given from FY 2001 funds**
Frances Jaeger - Foreign Lang. and Lit.
Sondra King - FCNS
Gregory Schmidt - Political Science

**Other Monetary Awards given from FY 2001 funds**
J. Erik Mickelson - Geology
Guadalupe Velazquez-Olman - Geology

*Encuentros 2002* 7
Center Receives HECA Grant

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has awarded the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies a $65,000 grant for its program “Latino Students: Moving Up, Reaching Out.” The program encourages Spanish-speaking Latino students to enter the health profession. Besides Northern Illinois University, other participating institutions include Kishwaukee Community College, DeKalb High School, Dundee Crown High School, and Rochelle High School.

The shortage of Latinos in the healthcare professions has created serious communication problems for patients and practitioners. A community research project conducted during the 2000-01 academic year by the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies found evidence that poor communication between Latino patients and non-Spanish speaking health professionals creates significant difficulties for both patients and clinicians. Poor communication may result in inadequate or inappropriate diagnosis and prescribed care or, worse yet, no care at all. Researchers found that a local clinic, for instance, has a written policy stating that “a Spanish-speaking patient must bring a translator” or forego treatment. A survey of healthcare agencies in northern Illinois also conducted by the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies corroborates this finding. Indeed, the need for Spanish-speaking health professionals regionally is acute.

To address the health profession’s need for Spanish-speakers, participating schools have formed student clubs that meet monthly. A professional healthcare provider attends each meeting, sharing information about different career options. Northern Illinois University graduate students coordinate each meeting. In addition, all club members visit area health agencies for a “shadowing” experience aimed at providing some hands-on experience and spend a day on campus visiting NIU’s health departments. A summer camp for club members, held on NIU’s campus, gives students a taste of college life as well as a visit to Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry.

The program also addresses the needs of non-Spanish speaking healthcare professionals by offering two daylong language workshops, one held in Elgin and the other in DeKalb. The workshops give practitioners guidance in communicating with Spanish-speaking patients and insights into cultural issues that may affect care.

The Center will apply for funding to continue and expand the program during the upcoming academic year.