

RELIGION AND DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA:

Religious Engagement with Rights and Justice in Latin America: Environment and Gender/Sexuality

A workshop organized by American University's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies (CLALS)
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WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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Robert Albro is Research Associate Professor at American University's Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. He received his PhD in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Chicago, and has conducted ethnographic research and published widely on popular and indigenous politics along Bolivia's urban periphery, and with particular attention to the changing terms of political participation, indigenous identity, and citizenship as part of grassroots-driven change in this country. Much of this work is summarized in his book, *Roosters at Midnight: Indigenous Signs and Stigma in Local Bolivian Politics* (School of Advanced Research Press, 2010). Dr. Albro's research and writing have been supported by the National Science Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and the American Council for Learned Societies, among others. He has been a Fulbright scholar, and held fellowships at the Carnegie Council, the Kluge Center of the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institution.

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Bill Gentile is a full-time professor of Film and Media Arts at American University, where he brings 30 years of field experience and professional contacts to the next generation of communicators. He is also an independent journalist and documentary filmmaker. In 2008, Gentile traveled with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (24th MEU) in Afghanistan's southern Helmand Province. The film he produced and shot, *Afghanistan: The Forgotten War*, was broadcast by NOW on PBS. Later in the year he shot and produced a story on America's nursing shortage, also broadcast on PBS. In December C-SPAN broadcast, *The White House: Inside America's Most Famous Home*, on which he worked as Documentary Consultant. Gentile teaches Photojournalism, Foreign Correspondence and Backpack Documentary. Last year, he filmed a three-part series on religion and gangs in Guatemala.

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American Left Turns: Politics, Policies, and Trajectories of Change (Lynne Rienner, 2010) and the second, *New Institutions for Participatory Democracy in Latin America: Voice and Consequence* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), with Maxwell A. Cameron and Kenneth E. Sharpe. Dr. Hershberg also co-directed the CLALS project on religious responses to violence in Latin America, a two-year initiative funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.
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Juliana Martínez is a Professional Lecturer at American University. She obtained her PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures from the University of California. Dr. Martinez specializes

in the representation of violence in Latin America in both film and literature, focusing primarily in the work of Colombian novelist Evelio Rosero. She also works on gender studies and queer theory within the Latin American cultural production. She is now working on a book project tentatively titled *Mirar (lo) violento: rebelión y exorcismo en la obra de Evelio Rosero*. The book contextualizes Rosero's literary work within the larger efforts to represent the violence that has ravaged Colombia in the last thirty years and argues that by focusing on disappearance, ambiguity and spectrality Rosero's novels develop an aesthetically astonishing and politically crucial way of re-counting and accounting for the violence that a prolonged state of warfare continues to (re)produce in Latin America.

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Carlos Monge is the Latin America Regional Coordinator at the Revenue Watch Institute. He holds a degree in anthropology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and a PhD in history from the University of Miami. Dr. Monge has also worked as Head of Citizen Monitoring and Promotion of Participation and Head of Communications for Grupo Propuesta Ciudadana (GPC), an institution dedicated to promoting decentralization as a participative process. He also currently serves as a Senior Researcher for Peru's Center for the Study and Promotion of Development. He works on extractive sector transparency issues with numerous civil society organizations and has been a member of the international board of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. He has also authored several works related to rural development, social movements, decentralization, citizen participation, and conflicts generated by extractive industries.

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