

Beyond Modernity and Postmodernity: Aesthetic Traditions in Contemporary Mexico

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in 301 Loma Hall



Cover of *Muerte sin fin* by José Gorostiza. Illustration by Emiliano Gironella

A critical analysis on intellectual and aesthetic genealogies in **contemporary Mexico**, as well as their cultural production, seems to be necessary from a perspective beyond the study of modernity, nationalism, and post-modernity. The greater number of studies on **Mexico's** artistic and intellectual life focuses on the interplay between **Mexico**, Modernity (in its different historical phases developmentalism and new liberalism), and narratives of national identity. These studies are consistent to the scenario where arts and letters sought to mirror and/or resist the sponsored projects of the **post-revolutionary Mexican State**. However, what happens when the nation falls into a troubled context where these constructs are no longer relevant due to the disarticulation of the national body and the re-articulation of the nation's priorities? One of the central goals of the **contemporary Mexican nation** is to fight against organized crime and regain control of the territory. What happens to aesthetic production and the concept of tradition in this order? Professor Sánchez will strive to answer these questions, among others, in his presentation entitled “**Beyond Modernity and Postmodernity: Aesthetic Traditions in Contemporary Mexico.**”

Prof. Sánchez is the author of *Artful Assassins: Murder as Art in Modern Mexico* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2010). In this book, he analyzes the interplay between crime, nation, and art in post-revolutionary Mexico. Sánchez is also the co-editor of *La luz y la guerra: el cine de la Revolución mexicana* (CONACULTA, 2010), a collection of critical essays that treat films on the Revolution written by scholars from Canada, the United States, and Mexico. He is also an accomplished poetry and fiction author. His collection of short stories, *De la escritura a la evidencia. Siete historias (seudo)policiales*, was published in 2009 by the Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila.

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