Religion in Mexican Politics, Migration, and Mexican American Communities, 1920-2020

Mexican Cultural Institute
2829 16th St. NW, Washington, DC
Friday, November 22, 2019, 10:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Religion remains central to life in Mexico and Mexican America. Religious understandings and goals inform and energize politics, community lives, gender relations, migration, and more. Yet there is no singular Mexican religion; rather, a universe of visions and understandings shape the changing communities of Mexico and Mexican America. The powerful and the populace, rural peoples and the growing numbers streaming into cities across greater North America live in worlds defined and at times contested by religious commitments.

We will gather to engage with diverse analysts to discuss religion in Mexico and Mexican America during decades of change—from the debates of the 1920s to the challenges of our times.

Sponsors
Georgetown University
Americas Initiative
Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs
Center for Latin American Studies
Catholic University of America
Mexican Cultural Institute, Washington, DC
SESSION 1:  
Religion and Politics, 1920-1970
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ben Fallaw, Colby College
“Soy Guadalupe la agraria y con el progreso voy”: Dissident Catholics and the Limits of Revolutionary Christianity, 1922-1931

Elizabeth O’Brien, Johns Hopkins University
A Struggle for the Soul of the Nation: Mexican Eugenics and the Catholic Church’s Response, 1925-1938

Julia Young, Catholic University of America
“The Revolution is Afraid”: Cristeros and Sinarquistas in Mexico and the United States, 1926-1950

Matthew Butler, University of Texas at Austin

Moderator: Karin Rosemblatt, University of Maryland

LIGHT LUNCH, 12:15 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

SESSION 2:  
Religion in Mexican and Migrant Lives, 1940-1970
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Emilio Coral, Universidad Iberoamericana
Between Catholic Tradition and the Nationalist State: the Mexico City Middle Class, 1940-1968

David Tamayo, Santa Clara University
Becoming Sowers of Friendship: American Service Clubs in Anticlerical Mexico, 1940-1970

Alberto García Maldonado, San José State University
Cristero Legacies: Landlessness, Sinarquismo, and Bracerismo in Mexico’s Rosary Belt

Deborah Kanter, Albion College
Chicago Católico: Making Parishes Mexican in Pilsen

Moderator: John Tutino, Georgetown University

COFFEE BREAK, 3:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

SESSION 3:  
Religion in Mexican and Mexican American Communities, 1990-2020
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Maria Del Socorro Castañeda-Liles, Becoming Mujeres
The Making of Girls in the Mexican Catholic Imagination: Women Speak on Shame, Violence, and La Virgen

Alyshia Galvez, The New School
Food for Healing: Food Sovereignty Movements in Mexican and Mexican-American Communities

Denise Brennan, Georgetown University
“God Will Look Over Me”: Seeking Protection in the Era of Mass Deportations

Sean Carrol, S.J., Kino Border Initiative
Lessons of Faith Learned from Migrants on the U.S.-Mexico Border

Moderator: Matthew Carnes, S.J., Georgetown University

RECEPTION, 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
Denise Brennan is professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology, and co-director of the Gender and Justice Initiative at Georgetown University. She is the author of *What’s Love Got to Do with It?: Transnational Desires and Sex Tourism in the Dominican Republic* (Duke 2004) and *Life Interrupted: Trafficking into Forced Labor in the United States* (Duke 2014). She is currently completing a book on undocumented lives in U.S. border regions and metropolitan areas beyond.

Matthew Butler is associate professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin. He is author of *Popular Piety and Political Identity in Mexico’s Cristero Rebellion: Michoacán, 1927–1929* (Oxford 2004) and editor of *Faith and Impiety in Revolutionary Mexico* (Palgrave Macmillan 2007).

Matthew Carnes, S.J., is associate professor of government and director of the Center for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University. He is author of *Continuity Despite Change: The Politics of Labor Regulation in Latin America* (Stanford 2014).

Sean Carroll, S.J., is executive director of the Kino Border Initiative, providing counseling and services to migrants and refugees in Nogales, Arizona. His career has focused on providing ministry and social services to diverse Mexican-American and migrant communities in California and along the southwest border.

María del Socorro Castañeda-Liles is co-founder of Becoming Mujeres, a program that offers seminars and workshops to Latina teens and their female caregivers. Previously, she taught in the Department of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University. She is author of *Our Lady of Everyday Life: La Virgen de Guadalupe and the Catholic Imagination of Mexican Women in America* (Oxford 2018).

Emilio Coral García teaches history, politics, and international relations at the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. He previously worked developing and coordinating global adult education programs for Latin America and the Caribbean at CREFAL, based in Pátzcuaro, Mexico. His scholarly work focuses on education, religion, and middle class lives in Mexico City.

Ben Fallaw is professor and director of Latin American studies at Colby College. He is author of *Cárdenas Compromised: The Failure of Reform in Postrevolutionary Yucatán* (Duke 2001) and *Religion and State Formation in Postrevolutionary Mexico* (Duke 2013).

Alyshia Gálvez is professor of food studies and anthropology at the New School. She is author of *Guadalupe in New York: Devotion and the Struggle for Citizenship Rights among Mexican Migrants* (NYU 2009); *Patient Citizens, Immigrant Mothers: Mexican Women, Public Prenatal Care, and the Birth Weight Paradox* (Rutgers 2011); and *Eating NAFTA: Trade, Food Policies, and the Destruction of Mexico* (California 2018).

Alberto García Maldonado is assistant professor of history at San José State University. He is completing a book on the Mexican government’s administration of the Bracero Program and why so many Bracero participants came from Mexico’s most traditionally Catholic regions.

Deborah Kanter is professor and chair of History at Albion College. She is author of *Hijos del Pueblo: Gender, Family, and Community in Rural Mexico, 1730–1850* (Texas 2009) and *Chicago Católico: Making Parishes Mexican* (Illinois 2020).
Elizabeth O’Brien is assistant professor in the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. She is working on a book entitled *Intimate Interventions: The Cultural Politics of Reproductive Surgery in Mexico, 1790–1940*.

Karin Rosemblatt is professor of history and director of the Center for Historical Studies at the University of Maryland. She is author of *Gendered Compromises: Political Cultures and the State in Chile, 1920–1950* (North Carolina 2000) and *The Science and Politics of Race in Mexico and the United States, 1910–1950* (North Carolina 2018).

David Tamayo is a post-doctoral fellow in History at Santa Clara University. He is working on a book entitled *Remaking the Right: Mexico’s Middle Classes and the Rise of Transnational Conservatism*.

John Tutino is professor of history and international affairs and director of the Americas Initiative at Georgetown University. He is author of *The Mexican Heartland: How Communities Shaped Capitalism, a Nation, and World History, 1500–2000* (Princeton 2018) and editor of *Mexico and Mexicans in the Making of the United States* (Texas 2012).

Julia Young is associate professor of history at the Catholic University of America. She is author of *Mexican Exodus: Emigrants, Exiles, and Refugees of the Cristero War* (Oxford 2015). She co-edited *Local Church, Global Church: Catholic Activism in Latin America from Rerum Novarum to Vatican II* (CUA 2015). She is working on a new book on Sinarquistas and other right-wing Catholic activists in post-Cristero Mexico.