

DESIRE AMONG THE RUINS: MIMESIS AND THE CRISIS OF REPRESENTATION

Colloquium on Violence and Religion
2024 Mexico City / June 26-29

Universidad Iberoamericana / Colegio de San Ildefonso



Conference Program

WEDNESDAY 26th of June.

- 10:00-10:45h. Welcome and Registration
10:45-11:45h. Mimetic Theory Refresher with George Dunn (Hangzhou City University)
12:00-14:00h. **1st Plenary Session**
•“Sacrifice and Anthropophagy among the Mexica.”
Guilhem Olivier (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
•“He became Brave, thereby Making Himself Terrifying: Aztec Cannibalism as Cosmophagy.”
Stan Declercq (Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia)
15:30-17:30h. **2nd Plenary Session**
•“The Ruins of Representation: Images, the Sacred and Phenomenology.”
Carla Canullo (Università di Macerata)
•“What is (not) Left to Desire: Desiring the Unavailable.”
Stéphane Vinolo (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador)
18:00-20:00h. **Concurrent Session I**

THURSDAY 27th of June

- 10:00-11:45h. **Concurrent Session II**
12:00-14:00h. **3rd Plenary Session**
•“Mimesis beyond Rivalry: The *Oikoumene*.”
David Freedberg (Pierre Matisse Professor of History of Art at Columbia University)
•“Redeeming Mimesis: Images and Moral Reality.”
Chris Fleming (Western Sydney University)
14:00-15:30h. **unRival Convivium and Concert: “Art and Peace Cafe: Positive Mimesis in Today’s World”, hosted by unRival Network**
15:30-17:30h. **4th Plenary Session**
•“A Promised Land: to Bury God?: Mimetic Violence in the Final Throes of Colonial Political Theology.”
Silvana Rabinovich (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México)
•“On the Far Side of Revenge? Pursuing Peace in an Age of Polarization.”
Duncan Morrow (Ulster University)
18:00-20:00h. **Concurrent Session III**

FRIDAY 28th of June

- 10:00-12:00h. **5th Plenary Session**
•“Naming the Witch: on Violence and Mimesis.”
Zenia Yébenes (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana)
•“Violence after Sacrifice Girard, Foucault and Nietzsche’s Shadow.”
Geoff Shullenberger (New York University)
12:15-13:45h. **Book Presentations:**
•*René Girard and the Western Philosophical Tradition, volume 1: Philosophy, Violence and Mimesis*, edited by Andreas Wilmes (Pázmány Péter Catholic University)
•*Mimetic Theory and Its Shadow: Girard, Milbank, and Ontological Violence*, by Scott Cowdell, presented by Anthony Bartlett.
•20 years of 2666 by Roberto Bolaño: Erik Buys Chris Fleming, and David García-Ramos.
15:30-17:30h. **6th Plenary Session**
•“Girard’s Reception in Mexico.”
Jorge F. Márquez, (Universidad Autónoma de México)
•“Invisibility, Space of Death, Wellspring of Money.”
Claudio Lomnitz (Columbia University)
18:00-20:00h. **Things Hidden: The Life and Legacy of René Girard**, a film by Sam Sorich
20:30h. **Banquet**

SATURDAY 29th of June

- 10:00-11:45h. **Peace Panel** / Martha Reineke (University of Northern Iowa) / Wolfgang Palaver (University of Innsbruck) / Duncan Morrow (Ulster University)
12:00-13:00h. **7th Plenary Session: René Girard Memorial Lecture**
•“From Oppenheimer’s Dream to Putin’s Threats. Thoughts on the Fragility of Nuclear Peace.”
Jean-Pierre Dupuy (Stanford University)
13:15-14:15h. **8th Plenary Session: Raymund Schwager Prize**
14:15-15:45h. Mimetic Theory Practitioners Lunch
15:45-16:45h. **COV&R Business Meeting**
17:00h. Visit to Museo Nacional de Antropología

Photo: Max Letek

For registration and info:



Important note: All sessions and film screening will take place at San Ildefonso.



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Concurrent Session I

WEDNESDAY 26th of June 18:00-20:00

[Literature 1. Room 10](#)

George Dunn, "Modern Virtue and Evil in Albert Camus's *The Fall*."

Jonathan Ivry, "D.H. Lawrence in Mexico: An Anthropology of Religion."

Gary Schmidt, "Animals, Deities and Sacrifice in Borges and Cortazar".

[Politics 1. Room 12](#)

Aranza Rubio Osornio, "Contemporary Political Myth as an Alternative to the Crisis of Meaning."

James Krapfl, "Misleading Images of Contemporary History as Instruments of Europe's Sacrificial Crisis."

Jorge F. Márquez, "Populism as a Scapegoat Factory."

Carlos Mora, "The Penal state, the Clamor for Punishment and Lynching."

[Theology 1. Room 13](#)

Wilhelm Guggenberger, "Moments of Grace in a Field of Ruins."

Brett McLaughlin, "Ruins and Crisis: Consolation in Fragility in the New Testament Epistles."

Joseph Fitzpatrick, "Religious Imagery and the Catholic Church in Tunisia."

[Philosophy 1. Sala Rivera](#)

Carlos Gutiérrez Lozano, "A Person from the Ruins of Violence: Towards a Biblical Dramatic Conception of Personalism."

David Dawson, "The Origin of Difference."

Todd Thompson, "Superhumans, Mimetic Desire and the Renewal of the Humanities."

Mathew Pattillo, "On Girard's Refusal to Interpret Jesus' Death as a 'Sacrifice' and his Later Disavowal of his Original Position."

[Film 1. Sala de Cine](#)

Ebrahimian Babak, "Crisis of Images: Ruins of Sacrificial Crisis and the Cinematic Image."

Felipe Vianna, "Hope beyond Religion: The Scapegoat in Animated Films."

Erik Buys, "Mimetic Dynamics and Phenomenological Awareness in Krzysztof Kieślowski's *Dekalog* (1989)."

[Ritual and Myth 1. Sala Orozco](#)

Andrew McKenna, "Ritualism, Realism and Representation in Ancient Israel."

Ángel Barahona, "The Folkloric Festival, a Diffuse Representation of the Original Crime: the Carnival of Lanz and the Day of the Dead."

Michael Rolland, "René Girard: the City of Gods and Beyond."

[Politics 2. Taller](#)

Susan Wright, "The Face of the Jaguar: Its Transformative Role in the Context of Oppressive Political Colonial Power."

Palmira Arias López, "AMLO or the Monopolization of Victim Status."

Oscar Espinosa, "Monarchy as Katechon."

René Ducharme, "Mimetic Desire and Sovereignty Choice."



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CONCURRENT SESSION II

THURSDAY 27th of June 10:00-11:45

Literature 2. Room 10

Blanca Millán, "Anticipating Ruins: a Girardian Reading of Ted Chiang's *Story of my Life*."

Curtis Gruenler, "The Music of Friendship: Dante's Participatory Mimesis."

Scott Cowdell, "Barthes and Girard on Mythical (Mis)Representation."

Technology 1. Sala 12

Eric Jacobus, "The ROBA Hypothesis: a Synthesis of Violence and Language."

Enrique Mercado, "Psychedelics, Sacrifice and Archaic Revival."

Emanuel Muroi, "Unveiling Mimetic Behavior in Sustainable Urban Regeneration Processes."

Arts. Room 13

Michelle Davo, "Proyecto *Mexique* and the Idolatrous Iconoclastic Use of the Erotic."

Vincenzo Ferro, "Symbols and Affectivity. Reflexions for a Philosophical Anthropology of Art between Aby Warburg and René Girard."

Mónica Álvarez, "A Sacrificial Banquet on Boccaccio and Botticelli's Mimetic Cycles."

Literature 3. Sala Rivera

Oliver W. Gerland, "The Rabinal Achí and *Oedipus the King*: a View from Mimetic Theory."

Marco Giovanni Stucchi, "From Representation to Reality: Shakespeare's Hermione and Boccaccio's Griselda."

Grant Kaplan, "The Representation of Desire in the Neapolitan Quartet of Elena Ferrante."

Theology 2. Sala de Cine

Grant Poettcker, "Desire's Ruin and Redemption: Christic Mimesis and the Imago Dei."

Mack Stirling, "Jeremiah: A Person in YHWH, a Type of Christ".

Luis Rodrigo Basaguren, "The Historical Paradox of Secularization: the Need for a Catholic-Girardian Ecclesiological Perspective."

Philosophy 2. Taller

Phillipe De Keukelaere, "Violence, War and Extreme Violence: Mapping the Origins of Human Violence."

Francisco del Ángel, "Violence, Tragedy, Purification: an Ontological Tentative on Culture".

Lyle Enright, "Duty Becomes a Delight or How does Beauty save the World."

Philosophy 3. Sala Orozco

Nikolaus Wandinger, "Reflections on Cultural Memory from Mimetic Theory."

Paul Duggan, "Three Kinds of Violence and the Dynamics of the Envy Triangle."

Luis Sokol, "The Beast is not Unnamable, it is Elusive: Towards a Girardian Conversation on Community."



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CONCURRENT SESSION III

THURSDAY 27th of June 18:00-20:00

[Literature 4. Room 10](#)

Mario Roberto Solarte, "Monster, Guardian or Maternal Beings: from the Ruins of Peace to the Possibility of Peace."

Nicolas Aguia, "Mimetic Images of Conflict and Accumulation: Negative Reciprocity in José María Arguedas' *Every Blood*."

David García-Ramos: "A Map of Ruins: Archaeology, Memory and Truth in Mayorga's *El Cartógrafo* (*The Cartographer*)."

[Literature 5. Room 12](#)

William Johnsen, "Going back to '1984'"

Carmen Madrid, "Core: Small and Vagrant Animal Soul."

Maura Junius: "Medusa, Violated by God and Man."

[Theology 3. Room 13](#)

Paul Lynch, "Persuasions of God among the Ruins."

Reginald McGinnis, "The Abbé Edme Mallet or the Unconciliating of Faith and Reason".

Stefano Santasilia, "Interreligious Dialogue as a Crisis of Religious Violence."

[Philosophy 4. Sala Rivera](#)

PANEL : "Victim Identity, Religion and the Sacred in Modernity" / Brian Robinette, Joel Hodge, Scott Cowdel / Chris Fleming

[Philosophy 5. Sala Orozco](#)

Omar Espinosa: "The Passion of Thought: Conversation and Research in the Human Sciences."

Sandor Goodhart, "The Ruin (*la ruine*) and the Ruins (*les ruines*) of Representation: Aesthetic Images and Sociological Histories in the Writing of René Girard and Emmanuel Levinas."

Sherwood Belangia: "Sacred Imagery and Meaning Making in Heraclitus."

[Technology 2. Sala de Cine](#)

Martha Clarissa Moreno, "The Ruins of the Narrative Hero: Identity and Hyper-rivalry in the Filter's Era."

Fabrizio Arcuri, "Digital Folklore: a Mimetic Interpretation."

Pierre Azou, "Envy, Images and Dating Apps: 'The End of Love' According to Girard."



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USEFUL INFORMATION:

HOSPITALS AND CLINICS:

<https://www.hospitaldejesus.com.mx>

<https://hospitalangeles.com/clinicalondres>

PHARMACIES

Farmacia París: <https://www.farmaciaparis.com/servicios.php>. (200 years old, a sight worth seeing).

Farmacia Benavides: 16 de Septiembre 82. (Just across the main square where the Cathedral is).

GUIDED TOURS TO BASILICA DE GUADALUPE, TEOTIHUACAN and other sites:

AVIATOR:

<https://www.viator.com/es-MX/Mexico-City-attractions/Shrine-of-Guadalupe/d628-a1759>

GET YOUR GUIDE

<https://www.getyourguide.com/basilica-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe-l4153/>

CATHOLIC CHURCHES:

<https://catedralmetropolitana.mx>

<https://mexicocity.cdmx.gob.mx/venues/templo-de-la-ensenanza/?lang=es>

<https://mexicocity.cdmx.gob.mx/venues/la-profesa/?lang=es>

SYNAGOGUE:

<https://www.sinagogajustosierra.com>

METHODIST CHURCH:

<https://mexicocity.cdmx.gob.mx/venues/mesias-methodist/>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

<https://www.principedepaz.mx/inicio>

MUSEUMS:

<https://www.munal.mx/en> (**Museo Nacional de Arte**)

<https://museopalaciodebellasartes.inba.gob.mx> (**Museo de Bellas Artes**)

<http://www.museojoseluiscuevas.com.mx/inicio.html> (**Museo José Luis Cuevas**)

<https://ccemx.org> (**Centro Cultural España**)

<https://franzmayer.org.mx> (**Museo Franz Mayer**)

<https://www.museodelasculturas.mx> (**Museo Nacional de las Culturas del Mundo**)

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USEFUL INFORMATION:

RESTAURANTS: (There are plenty of food venues near San Ildefonso, but these are our recommendations)

Itacate del mar: República de Guatemala 20

<https://itacatedelmar.com.mx>

Azúl Histórico: Isabel la Católica 30

<https://www.azul.rest/azul-histórico>

Balcón del Zócalo: 5 de Mayo 61

<https://balcondelzocalo.com>

La Casa de las Sirenas: República de Guatemala 32

<https://www.lacasadelassirenas.rest/galeria>

Terraza Gran Hotel de la Ciudad de México: 16 de Septiembre 82

<https://granhoteldelaciudaddemexico.com.mx/es/terraza/>

Comedor Cantina Mata: Filomeno Mata 18

<https://www.matacomedor.com>

Bar La Opera: Avenida 5 de Mayo 10

<https://laoperabar.com>

Café de Tacuba: Calle Tacuba 28

<https://cafedetacuba.mx>

Casa de los Azulejos (Calle Madero 4)

Terraza Alameda (Hilton Hotel-Avenida Juárez 70)

Restaurante Cardenal (Calle Palma 23)

Cocina Central 1812 (Plaza de la Constitución 13, 3rd Floor)

Restaurante Mercaderes (Avenida 5 de Mayo 57)

OUR BANQUET WILL TAKE PLACE AT “CARACOL DE MAR” (República de Guatemala 20)

QUICK LUNCH VENUES:

Café Popular (Avenida 5 de Mayo 50-52)

Casa Churra (Calle 16 de Septiembre 26)

Café la Pagoda (Avenida 5 de Mayo 10F)

El Rey del Pavo (Calle de la Palma 32)

La Capilla Restaurante Bar (Avenida 5 de Mayo 39)

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

