

**With renowned international scholars and artists:**

Elmer Mendoza - *Mexico, Tusquets Award Winner for the Best Novel 2007*  
Felipe Aljure - *Colombia, Film Director*  
V́ctor Gaviria - *Colombia, Film Director*  
Catherine L. Benamou - *University of California at Irvine*  
Rebecca E. Biron - *Dartmouth College*  
Nancy D. Campbell - *Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*  
Elaine Carey - *St. John's University*  
Richard DeGrandpre - *University of Auckland, NZ*  
Luis Duno-Gottberg - *Florida Atlantic University*  
Mark Cameron Edberg - *The George Washington University*  
Beatriz González-Stephan - *Rice University*  
Hermann Herlinghaus - *University of Pittsburgh*  
Curtis Marez - *University of Southern California*  
Julián Olivares - *University of Houston*  
Cynthia Steele - *University of Washington*  
Juana Suárez - *University of Kentucky*  
Elijah Wald - *Freelance Writer*

**Sponsors:**

The Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures  
The Center for Latin American Studies  
The University Center for International Studies  
The School of Arts and Sciences - Office of the Dean  
The Cultural Studies Program  
The Department of English  
The Film Studies Program  
Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana

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UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
School of  
**Arts and Sciences**  
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Fifth International Latin American Cultural Studies Conference  
at the University of Pittsburgh

**NARCO-EPICS  
UNBOUND:**

New Narrative Territories,  
Affective Aesthetics, and Ethical Paradox

**April 4 – 5, 2008**

Pittsburgh Athletic Association, Main Dining Room

**Coordinator:**

**Hermann Herlinghaus**

Department of Hispanic Languages & Literatures

**Narco-Epics** designate transnational narrative formations that emerged, during the 1980s and 1990s, throughout (Latin) American literature, music, film and testimony. This dynamic realm conveys images and affective configurations of shattered life – existences that are massively endangered by privation, proliferating marginalities and informal labor, and illicit global flows, together with paradoxical forms of communitarian resistance and social deviance. Narco-epics address some of the most intricate issues of philosophy and ethics today. To what extent does globalization rely on an unequal distribution of guilt and fear throughout the world? How can those territories, in which the proximity of violence, religiosity and “bare life” seems to displace modernity’s civilian core, be understood? And how can aesthetic thinking recover the immanent political value of life?

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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### Friday, April 4

#### **Official Welcome to the University of Pittsburgh - 9:30 am**

N. John Cooper, Bettye J. & Ralph E. Bailey-Dean of Arts and Sciences  
Kathleen M. DeWalt, Director, Center for Latin American Studies  
Hermann Herlinghaus, Department of Hispanic Languages & Literatures

#### **Keynote - 10:00 - 11:00 am**

Richard DeGrandpre - University of Auckland, NZ  
Finding Placebo Text in the Age of Bio-babble

#### **Session 1 - 11:15 am - 1:15 pm**

##### **Film and/as Global Ethical Thinking**

Catherine L. Benamou - University of California at Irvine  
Gender Politics in the Mexican Narco-churro, Policed & Unleashed

Curtis Marez - University of Southern California  
Remembering "Scarface": New Media and Disposable People

Rebecca E. Biron - Dartmouth College  
Globalization Beyond Good and Evil: "Don't Tempt Me"

Moderator: John Beverley - University of Pittsburgh

#### **Session 2 - 3:00 - 5:30 pm**

##### **Images and Paradoxes of Intoxication**

Nancy D. Campbell - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Visual Iconographies of Addiction: Rendering Visible the Invisible

Elaine Carey - St. John's University  
Foreign Vices? Gender, Modernity, and Drugs in Mexico, 1920 to 1970

Hermann Herlinghaus - University of Pittsburgh  
On the 'Dialectics of Ecstasy and Humiliating Sobriety' (Walter Benjamin):  
Ominous Traces of Modern Subjectivity

Moderator: Elizabeth Monasterios - University of Pittsburgh

#### **Film Screening - 7:00 - 9:00 pm - Frick Fine Arts Auditorium**

El Colombiano Dream  
Felipe Aljure, Colombia - 2004. Conversation with the Director

### Saturday, April 5

Pittsburgh Athletic Association, Main Dining Room, 1st Floor

#### **Keynote - 10:00 - 11:00 am**

Elmer Mendoza - Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, México  
Winner of the International Tusquets Prize for the Best Novel 2007  
El incierto trabajo de crear un personaje narco

#### **Session 3 - 11:15 am - 1:15 pm**

##### **Heterogeneous Identities: Between Affliction and Defiance**

Cynthia Steele - University of Washington  
Killer Chronicles: The Hitman as Narrator in Recent Latin American Fiction

Elijah Wald - Freelance Writer  
From Chalino Sánchez to Banda Rap: Fusing a New Identity in  
Mexican Los Angeles

Mark Cameron Edberg - The George Washington University  
Narcocorridos – What Kind of Narrative Are They Now?

Moderator: Gonzalo Lamana - University of Pittsburgh

#### **Session 4a - 3:00 - 4:15 pm**

##### **Violence, Gender, and the Political Substance of Life Itself**

Felipe Aljure - Film director, Colombia  
El Tercer Mundo no existe / The Third World Does Not Exist

Beatriz González-Stephan - Rice University  
Julián Olivares - University of Houston  
Estética y ritual de la violencia: Juárez, frontera 450 +

#### **Session 4b - 4:30 - 6:00 pm**

Juana Suárez - University of Kentucky  
Narcotrafficking and the Exhaustion of Motherhood in Colombian Cinema

Luis Duno-Gottberg - Florida Atlantic University  
Mobs on Wheels: Social Images of Anti-Apocalypse

Moderator: Juan Duchesne-Winter - University of Pittsburgh

#### **Film Screening - 7:30 - 9:30 pm - Frick Fine Arts Auditorium**

Images from a Trilogy: Rodrigo D / La vendedora de rosas / Sumas y restas  
Víctor Gaviria, Colombia - Conversation with the Director