



GWCseries

CAROLINA GENDER, WAR AND CULTURE SERIES



Thursday, 16 February 2017

5:30–7:00 pm • UNC Chapel Hill • Hamilton Hall 569

MIGUEL LA SERNA (UNC Chapel Hill • Department of History)



The Internal Revolution: Women Leaders of Peru's Shining Path and MRTA Guerillas

Throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s, two guerrilla groups, the Shining Path and the MRTA, took up arms against the Peruvian state, thrusting the Andean heartland into a bloody civil war that would claim the lives of nearly 70,000 people. While studies of Peru's political violence abound, few have examined the complicated and often contradictory role that gender played at the highest levels of its guerrilla organizations. This lecture offers a rare portrait of the highest-ranking women in each armed group, Augusta La Torre (Shining Path) and Lucero Cumpa (MRTA). In discussing these women's extraordinary rise within their respective organizations, as well as the personal and gendered challenges they faced in obtaining and maintaining positions of power within them, this lecture highlights the internal contradictions that would come to define Peru's late-20th century revolutionary experience.

Miguel La Serna is an Associate Professor of History UNC Chapel Hill. He has written numerous works on Peruvian political violence, including *The Corner of the Living: Ayacucho on the Eve of the Shining Path Insurgency* (2012). He is currently working on two projects, a character-driven history of the Shining Path war and a narrative history of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

In cooperation with UNC Chapel Hill Institute for the Studies of the Americas

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