Encuentros, Summer 2000

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Marshall Eakin Discusses Brazil’s Industrialization

By Professor Anne Hanley

The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies and the Graduate School were pleased to host a lecture and seminar this March by Marshall Eakin, associate professor of history at Vanderbilt University. Professor Eakin is a specialist in Brazilian history and has written and lectured extensively about business enterprise, industrialization, and economic development in Minas Gerais, a politically and economically important state in Brazil’s interior.

Professor Eakin presented his research on what he terms “Tropical Capitalism,” a Brazilian form of industrial capitalism characterized by strong state intervention, political patronage, family networks, and a near total absence of technological innovation. This pattern was particularly evident in the industrialization of Belo Horizonte, the capital city of Minas Gerais. Belo Horizonte, or BH as it is known in Brazil, was a planned city conceived at the end of the 19th century to serve as a growth pole in what was a predominantly agricultural state. It experienced modest industrial development up to World War II, but then industrialized so rapidly since 1940 that it has displaced Rio de Janeiro to become Brazil’s second most important industrial region after São Paulo.

Eakin attributes the stunning rise of Minas Gerais’s industrial economy to a highly interventionist state government interested in promoting modernization. Because the mayor of BH was typically the governor’s protégé and next in line for the state’s highest office, municipal policy was indistinguishable from the larger development goals of the Minas political elite. In other words, the mayor actively sought to engineer an industrial economy capable of competing with Brazil’s other two industrial bases in neighboring São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro by acting as both patron of and investor in industrial projects throughout the 20th century. The mayor’s office in conjunction with the governor’s staff compiled a team of “technocrats,” state-employed engineers, to evaluate and implement modernization strategies.

In the late 1960s, when an internal review found the state’s industrial progress lacking, the government created a think tank to come up with promotional strategies to further industrialization, actively invested in infrastructure to support an expanded industrial base, and successfully attracted new industries to the region.

While state involvement in the industrialization process is not unusual, and in fact has been championed by leading theoreticians of economic development, Eakin raises concerns about the Brazilian pattern based on his research on the Minas case. These concerns have to do with the issues of patronage and kinship. Eakin finds that the economic elite of Minas, the industrialists and entrepreneurs who benefited from the city/state economic policy, tended to come from a small cluster of families. This narrowly-formed business class helped Minas’s politicians and technocrats identify and form alliances with kin-based entrepreneurial networks which, in turn, generated rapid growth. While Minas was undeniably successful in achieving its goals through the workings of patronage and kinship, Eakin notes that these same relationships harbor potentially serious and negative implications for longer term industrialization.

Specifically, the close ties between a few industrialists and the halls of power might discourage innovation and entrepreneurship.

Indeed, Eakin finds that Minas’s development has been characterized by a near total absence of the technological innovation found in successful industrial economies like the United States and Japan. The outcome of the Brazilian approach to industrial capitalism has been a form of industrialization that has not been and cannot be self-sustaining. The absence of technological innovation, coupled with the ties of patronage and kinship, has meant that Brazil in the 20th century industrialized without ever experiencing an industrial revolution.
April Events at the Center

The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies sponsored a series of exceptional programs during April. The programs focused a new lens on recent Latino experiences and cultural developments. A photographic exhibit featuring images of Cesar Chavez, Robert Kennedy, and the United Farm Workers served as a backdrop for the month’s events. The Center’s gallery hosted the display. The exhibit came on loan from the Cesar Chavez Foundation, Keene, California.

Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers, visited the NIU campus on April 4. In an early-afternoon lecture held in the Holmes Student Center’s Sky Room, Ms. Huerta shared her own experiences and insights on the UFW strikes. With Cesar Chavez and thousands of striking laborers, she was instrumental in forcing negotiations between union representatives and the barons of California’s agribusiness. Ms. Huerta met visitors attending the opening of the UFW exhibit.

An Illinois Humanities Road Scholar, Enrique Arias presented an evening of Latin American piano music on April 10 in the Holmes Student Center Heritage Room. Arias underscored his engaging program with insights about the relationship between Latin American and European music.

Attention turned to sports on April 19, when a panel of experts discussed their knowledge of Latinos in Big League baseball. Adrian Burgos, University of Michigan Ph.D. candidate, and Marcos Breton, reporter from the Sacramento Bee, provided a retrospective overview of challenges facing Latino players. Cuban-born Minnie Minoso, retired White Sox player, shared his firsthand experience in the leagues.

Historian Jeffrey Pilcher, author of *¡Que Viván Los Tamales! The Creation of a Mexican National Cuisine*, discussed his recent research at an early evening lecture on April 25. The audience enjoyed a sampling of Mexican food after the lecture. Professor Pilcher gave a seminar the following morning. He is a member of the history faculty at the Citadel. The Graduate School co-sponsored the program.

Faculty Publications and Activities

**Ibis Gómez-Vega**
Assistant Professor, Department of English

**Articles:**


**Reviews:**


**Interview:**

**Eugene Perry**
Professor, Department of Geology

**Conference Paper:**
Faculty Publications and Activities

Eloy Merino
Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Conference Papers:


Grant:
(2000) NIU Graduate School Research Grant for a study titled “La identidad política del joven autor Cela.”

Guadalupe Luna
Associate Professor, School of Law

Publications:
(Forthcoming) “Gold Souls and Wandering Clerics: California Missions, Native Californians, and LatCrit Theory.” In the University of California at Davis Law Review.


CLAS Research Awards
Granted 1999-2000

Faculty Research Award

Winifred Creamer, Department of Anthropology, received a $2,500 grant to conduct archaeological research in Peru’s Supe Valley with a focus on the emergence of complex society in central Peru.

Graduate Student Research Awards

Guadalupe Velazquez Oliman, Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, received a $1,000 grant to support her research of the hydrogeology in the area around Mt. Popocatepetl, near Puebla, Mexico.

David Goldberg, Department of Political Science, traveled to Lima, Peru, to conduct a preliminary study of Peru’s political parties and the prospects for the construction of democratic institutions in that country. The Center awarded a grant of $1,350 to support Goldberg’s research.

Sondra King Supports Outreach Program in the Dominican Republic

Sondra King, School of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences, spent several weeks in the Dominican Republic recently, helping lay the groundwork for Parque Mirador del Norte’s outreach program. During her visit, Sondra traveled to numerous poor communities, presenting valuable information about diet and health.

Through the outreach program, Parque Mirador del Norte will provide health care and nutritional instruction to those who lack such services. Within the year, over 400 ancianos will be interviewed regarding their health concerns and problems. Tests for diabetes, hemoglobin, and blood pressure will be given, as will measurements for height and weight. These tests will help personnel determine levels of nutritional deficiencies.
José Carrasquel joined the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in the fall of 1999. He is an assistant professor of Spanish linguistics. He received his Ph.D. in romance linguistics from the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, in 1995. He has been teaching Spanish for over 10 years, having taught at the University of Oregon, the University of Washington, and Stanford University. His fields of specialization are the history of the Spanish language, Spanish dialectology, the structure of modern Spanish, linguistic categorization, and grammaticalization theory. He is currently working on a pilot for a dialectological computerized inventory of the Spanish language and on a book on the grammaticalization of the demonstrative *ille* in the evolution of Latin to Spanish. His research and dialectal endeavors focus on both fostering validation and disseminating awareness about linguistic and dialectical diversity as yet another manifestation of the broad spectrum of the human race.

Eloy Merino earned his doctorate from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, in 1998. His dissertation explored the cultural, political, and ideological implications of the third novel (1944) by Camilo José Cela, the Nobel prize-winning Spanish author. His current research concentrates on literature produced during Spain’s fascist period, 1939-1945. He has published three journal articles, on Cela, Sender, and Caviedes.

Eloy was born in Cuba. In 1986 he immigrated to the United States, where he spent over a decade in Florida. He taught for one year at Dickinson College, Pennsylvania. He came to NIU in the fall of 1999 and is affiliated with the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.


Anne is originally from California, but comes to Northern Illinois on a circuitous route through the western hemisphere. She grew up in Costa Mesa, in southern California, but went north to college at the University of California at Berkeley, where she studied history and Portuguese and majored in economics. She spent her junior year at the University of São Paulo, Brazil, where she became deeply interested in issues of Brazilian economic development. Her next stop was New York University, where she earned an M.A. degree in Latin American studies. She then returned to California to enter the Ph.D. program in Latin American history at Stanford University. Anne spent one year teaching at California State University at Hayward and two years as an adjunct professor at Northwestern University before joining the history faculty at NIU.
Michael J. Gonzales
Professor of History and Director of the
Center for Latino and Latin American Studies

Publications:
(Forthcoming) *The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1940*. University of New Mexico Press.

Conference Papers:

Conference:

Anne Hanley
Assistant Professor, Department of History

Publications:

Book Reviews:


Conferences:


Gregory D. Schmidt
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science

Publications:


Book Review:

Conference Papers:


On October 28, 1999, NIU dedicated a new facility for Latino and Latin American studies. The building, located at 515 Garden Road, houses both the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, which offers interdisciplinary research and instructional programs for students, faculty, and the community, and University Resources for Latinos, which is responsible for Latino student support services.

The 7,000-square-foot building features Southwestern style architecture and provides many facilities for students. It features a computer lab, study areas, meeting room, library, lecture room, office space, and a gallery-atrium area to display artwork, including the work of NIU’s Latino student artists.

Speakers at the dedication ceremony included NIU President John E. La Tourette, Manuel Sanchez of the NIU Board of Trustees, Michael J. Gonzales, director of the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, George Gutierrez, director of University Resources for Latinos, and Interim Provost Lynne Waldeland.

“This building demonstrates the university’s commitment to quality education for its students, particularly to its growing and multi-talented Latino community,” Gonzales remarked in his speech. This building represents the culmination of a dream for NIU’s Latino faculty and students.

The dedication ceremony was followed by an Open House from 12 noon to 4 p.m. About 200 NIU students, faculty, and staff attended this event and enjoyed refreshments and a mariachi band performance.
Rosita Lopez Marcano  
Assistant Professor, Department of Leadership and Educational Policy Studies

Book Chapters:  

Conference Papers:  

Award: Top Ten Teaching Award. Department of Leadership and Educational Policy Studies, College of Education, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois.

Other Programs Sponsored by the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies  
- VALE Leadership Conference  
- “The Comedy Show,” organized by Sigma Lambda Beta fraternity  
- Rusty Barceló, Multicultural and Academic Affairs (University of Minnesota), co-sponsored with the Provost’s Office, Unity in Diversity, and the Women’s Studies Program  
- Mexican Independence Day, organized by Psi Lambda fraternity

- Tom Hansen, Mexican Solidarity Network (Chicago), co-sponsored with the Center for Black Studies, UCM/Wesley, DeKalb Interfaith Network, and Northern Coalition for Peace and Justice
- Luis Rodriguez, speaker and poet, organized by Alpha Psi Lambda, Inc.
- Professor Maria E. Pessoa de Carvalho, Universidade Federal de Paraiba (Brazil)

Faculty Publications and Activities

Peter M. Gutierrez, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

(Forthcoming) Gutierrez, P. M. et al. “Exploration of the relationship between physical and/or sexual abuse, attitudes about life and death, and suicidal ideation in young women.” In Death Studies.
(Forthcoming)———. “History of physical and/or sexual abuse and current suicidality in college women.” In Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal.
(Forthcoming)———. “Suicide risk assessment in a college student population.” In Journal of Counseling Psychology.
(Forthcoming)———. “The Multi-Attitude Suicide Tendency Scale: Further validation with adolescent psychiatric inpatients.” In Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior.