

The Future of Mexican Past: A Roundtable Discussion on Mexico's Porfirian Histories and Historiographies

History is always a process in the making. This is especially true for the Porfiriato, the controversial period of Mexican history spanning between 1876 and 1911 named after President Porfirio Díaz. During the Mexican Revolution and the decades of single party ruling that followed the deposition of Díaz, historians tended to portray his long presidency as a disruption to Mexico's seemingly inevitable republican path - a path that, some argued, was being restored with a presidency headed by the Institutional Revolutionary Party beginning in 1929. But as the PRI lost the 2000-federal elections and the country started its so-called transition to democracy, the Porfirian period has become the subject of new and more multifaceted historical, political and social interpretations.

This roundtable discussion will explore some of the complex processes that go into the present and future making and remaking of Mexico's histories and historiographies.

Dr. Paul Garner, Professor of History and Cowdray Professor of Spanish, University of Leeds

Dr. Evelyn Hu-DeHart, Professor of History and Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, Brown University

Dr. William French, Professor of History, University of British Columbia

Chaired by Dr. Paul Garner

Thursday, May 17, 2012 5:30 - 7:30pm Liu Institute, Multipurpose Room 6476 NW Marine Drive



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