

Contacts

Social Catholicism and the Origins of the New Left in El Salvador, 1960-1975

Joaquín Chávez to deliver the Annual McGill Lecture

What: Joaquín M. Chávez, McGill Visiting Assistant Professor of International Studies and a historian specializing on religion and politics in Latin America and the Cold War in the Global South, will deliver the Patricia C. and Charles H. McGill III '63 Lecture in International Studies on "Revolutionary Pedagogy: Catholic Intellectuals, The Second Vatican Council, and the Origins of the New Left in El Salvador, 1960-1975." The lecture is free and open to the public.

When: Tuesday, April 3 at 4:30 p.m.

Where: McCook Auditorium on the Trinity campus, 300 Summit Street, Hartford.

Background: In this lecture, Chávez will explore the evolution of religious and political consciousness and notions of historical change among Catholic intellectuals who played key roles in the foundation of the New Left in El Salvador during the 1960s and 1970s.

His talk is part of a larger study that explores the role that popular intellectuals played in the origins of the Salvadoran insurgency during the two decades that preceded the Civil War in that country. He will emphasize the success of university intellectuals in El Salvador in achieving what many other Latin American urban radicals failed to accomplish: the creation of an organic and carefully cultivated linkage with rural leaders and communities. Chávez also will analyze trans-class political and cultural interactions between city and countryside that influenced the process, particularly secular and religious pedagogy.

Chávez received his Ph.D. in history from New York University in 2010. His dissertation, "The Pedagogy of Revolution: Popular Intellectuals and the Origins of the Salvadoran Insurgency, 1960-1980," lays out the history of the mobilization and polarization that brought El Salvador to the brink of Civil War.

His most recent publications include "Revolutionary Power, Divided State" in *Mapping Latin America: Space and Society, 1492-2000*, edited by Karl Offen and Jordana Dym, and "The University for Social Change and the Legacy of Ignacio Martín-Baró S.J." in *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*.

Chávez joined the peace negotiations that put an end to the Civil War in El Salvador in 1992 and has published studies related to that event. He also has served as an expert on peace negotiations in Nepal.

The McGill International Studies Fund was established in 1996 with a gift from Patricia C. and Charles H. McGill III '63. The gift helped secure a matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The income from the fund supports the appointment of visiting humanities scholars, primarily international scholars, in the academic areas of international studies that include African studies, Asian studies, Latin American studies, Middle Eastern studies, post-colonial studies, and Russian and Eurasian studies.

Charles McGill is a nationally recognized expert in mergers and acquisitions, and corporate strategic planning and restructuring, with significant experience in consumer products, restaurant and food service, and information services. McGill is the founding partner of Sagamore Partners, an acquisitions adviser. Previously, he was a senior executive of Fortune Brands, Dun & Bradstreet, and the Pillsbury Company. McGill is a former member of the Trinity College Board of Trustees and its Board of Fellows. He received the College's Alumni Medal of Excellence in 1993. The McGills are parents of a '94 Trinity graduate.