

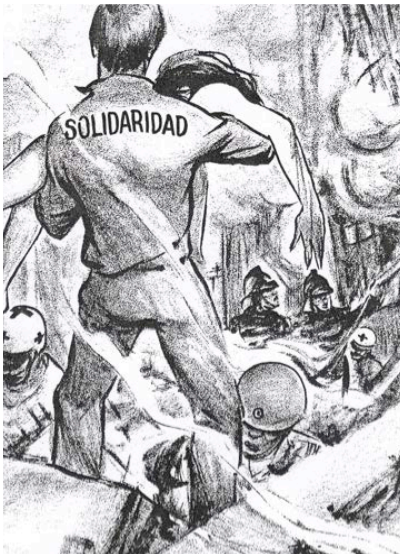
As part of our lecture series,  
The Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies,  
University of Waterloo  
is proud to present a lecture by

## Professor Berenice Villagomez

Berenice Villagomez is the coordinator for the Latin American Studies program at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on Mexican literature of the 20th and 21st centuries, and has published articles that explore issues of memory, trauma and history in Latin American disaster narratives. She is currently completing two projects: *Mexico en sus Revoluciones*, a volume on the commemoration of the Mexican Bicentennial celebrations to be published by Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos; and a monograph on the literature derived from the earthquake that nearly destroyed Mexico City in 1985. Her edition of a previously unpublished manuscript by distinguished Dominican writer Pedro Henríquez Ureña, *México o el hermano definidor*, (in collaboration with Néstor Rodríguez) is forthcoming from El Colegio de México.

### “Omen, Punishment or Path to Revolution? Earthquakes in the Mexican Cultural Imaginary”

This lecture will explore the conceptualization of natural disasters, particularly earthquakes, in the cultural imaginary of Mexico. Drawing from theoretical approaches to trauma and solidarity, it will focus on how natural disasters have been interpreted as pivotal points in the construction of a national community or strategically denied a role in the history of the development of a strong civic society. The lecture will consider examples ranging from the pre-Columbian communities of central Mexico to the earthquake that nearly destroyed Mexico City in 1985.



Monday November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 3:00pm in DC 1302  
followed by a reception at 4:00pm in DC 1301.

All are welcome!