

ABSTRACT PROF. PICCATO

This course will examine the pursuit of truth and justice against crime in mid-twentieth century Mexico. Civil society's skepticism toward the police because its investigative methods relied heavily on torture. The justice system was not seen as a reliable space to find the truth and adjudicate punishment because it was not transparent to the public. This situation made newspapers the main space for the discussion and in some cases the investigation of crimes, involving publics that were critical of the state. It also gave murderers, at least some of them, a platform to become celebrities who were able to present their own narrative about their crimes. The particularities of the Mexican pursuit of the truth were reflected in the emergence of local crime fiction involving new authors and readers. The focus of the course will be between the 1920s and 1950s and will compare the case of Mexico with other contemporary societies, like the United States and Argentina.

LETTURE CONSIGLIATE

C. GINZBURG, « The Inquisitor as Anthropologist », in *Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method*, traduit par John TEDESCHI, Baltimore, John Hopkins University Press, 1992, p. 156-164.

C. GINZBURG, « Checking the Evidence: The Judge and the Historian », *Critical Inquiry*, Fall 1991, p. 79-92.