

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies presents:



A Flamethrower to His Image: Photographs of Archbishop Oscar Romero

A Talk by **Kevin Coleman**
University of Toronto

In 1989, several divisions of U.S.-trained Salvadoran military units invaded the University of Central America, killing six Jesuit scholar-priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter. After brutalizing the priests and women, the soldiers put a flamethrower to a portrait of Archbishop Oscar Romero, a man they had killed nine years earlier.

This talk examines the incineration of the portrait at the University of Central America and puts it into dialogue with photographs from Romero's archive, images he captured before being named archbishop and before the Civil War ripped El Salvador apart.

Kevin Coleman is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Toronto, Mississauga. Dr. Coleman is a graduate of the CLACS M.A. Program and received his Ph.D. from the IU Department of History. He is a historian of modern Latin America, specializing in the history of U.S.-Latin American encounters and visual culture. His recently published book, *A Camera in the Garden of Eden: The Self-Forging of a Banana Republic* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2016), examines the intersection between photography, neocolonialism, labor history, and theorizes ways to read political subjectivities through visual archives.

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