

# **WOMEN NARRATING VIOLENCE IN COLOMBIA:**

*A conference*



## **REFLECTIONS ON TRAUMA, MEMORY AND THE BODY**

*This conference will be conducted in English and Spanish*

**October 16th, 2009 5PM**

**Skylight Room 9100**

**The Graduate Center, CUNY. 365 Fifth Avenue (@34<sup>th</sup> and Fifth)**



**JOHN JAY COLLEGE**  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## **WOMEN NARRATING VIOLENCE IN COLOMBIA:**

### **REFLECTIONS ON TRAUMA, MEMORY AND THE BODY**

**While decades of violence have impacted Colombian society as a whole, women have been particularly affected. They constitute the majority of the country's population, and many academics and governmental and non-governmental organizations consider the future of Colombia to be in their hands. We question whether it is possible for these women, victims and protagonists of endless conflict, to build a peaceful present without first confronting the past. This conference takes a multidisciplinary approach to the study of Colombian women. It seeks to understand how they cope with trauma, violence and loss. We ask about the future and what it may bring for them and for the country. But in particular we want to address what we believe has been overlooked within the scope of the fields of Latin American and Women's Studies: an analysis of these women's personal narratives of memory and violence. Thus multiple voices will be brought into the frontline of feminist discourse.**

**Moderator and Discussant: Ginny Bouvier, United States Institute of Peace.**

#### **Speakers:**

**Elvira Sánchez-Blake, Michigan State University; Memoria de las combatientes: testimonio y literatura.**

**Lorena Terando, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee; The Ethics of Witnessing in Translating the Testimonio.**

**Patricia Tovar, John Jay College; Looking Back at the Past: Narratives of Death, Landscapes of Sorrow, and the Perils of Nostalgia.**

**Marcela Tovar, Latin American Studies, Queens College; Gender, Ethnicity and Territoriality in the Colombian Armed Conflict.**

**Constanza López-Baquero, CUNY Graduate Center; Razones de Vida by Vera Grabe: Pro-Peace Narrative or the Search for Memory.**

*Esta conferencia se realizará en español y en inglés*

**Reception to follow (Room 4116, 7:30PM)**

Co-sponsored by CUNY Graduate Center Colombian Studies Group, DSC, PhD Program in Hispanic and Luso Brazilian Literatures and Languages and John Jay College Department of Anthropology.