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VCU Global Education Office, VCU Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, and VCU Year of Freedom
present

State Terror, Resistance and the Poetics of Survival in Sabino Esteban Francisco's *Gemido de huellas*

Tuesday, November 13, 2012 · Richmond Salons III-IV · 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm



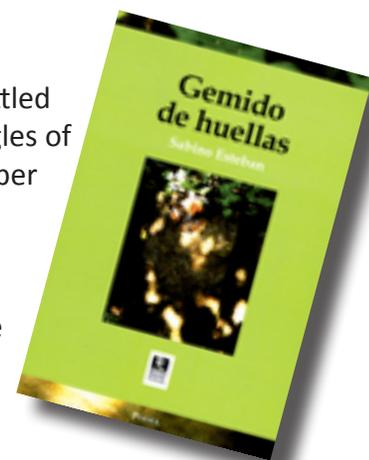
Guest Lecture featuring Emilio del Valle Escalante, Ph. D.

Between 1980 and 1983, the Guatemalan army carried out some of its worst attacks against the Maya populations in the rural areas of the country. Notwithstanding the thousands of people that were persecuted, murdered and displaced, thousands of those who fled the state sponsored terrorism managed to survive by employing collective strategies in the altiplanos.

Today these survivors are known as the Communities of Population in Resistance (CPR), a network of organizations that settled or were in constant movement in the jungles of Guatemala (at times, in Mexico) and number over one million people, displaced by the violence.

In this presentation, Escalante will explore the CPR's politics of resistance through

Sabino Esteban Francisco's (Maya Q'anjob'al) book of poetry, *Gemido de huellas* [The Moan of Footprints] (2009). With his book, Francisco—a survivor of the war who grew up in the settlements of the CPR located in Ixcan—develops a poetics of survival in which he criticizes an oppressive hegemonic order by inscribing subaltern memory and establishing conditions that would allow for the creation of a non-colonial alternative.



About the speaker: Emilio del Valle Escalante, Ph.D. is associate professor of Spanish at the University of North Carolina. A native of Guatemala, his teaching and research focus on contemporary Latin American literatures and cultural studies with particular emphasis on indigenous literatures and social movements, Central American literatures and cultures, and post-colonial and subaltern studies theory in the Latin American context.



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