

A PUBLIC SPHERE FOR SCIENCE IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY DICTATORSHIPS

A public lecture by Agustí Nieto-Galan
Thursday October 27, 4.30-5.30 pm
Raynor Library Beaumier Suites BC

This lecture revisits Jürgen Habermas's definition of "public sphere" when applied to twentieth-century dictatorial regimes in which censorship, repression, and an emphatic social control of all areas of society seems particularly untenable.

Did the popularization of science in dictatorships open spaces for debate that helped to create critical thinking about the regime? Or was it the other way around: did these spaces help to legitimize the regime and make it stronger? How can we reconcile our assumption of the daily press as a pool for critical reasoning, a promoter of a public sphere in liberal democracies, with its role as a controlled and censored tool for propaganda in dictatorships?



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Sponsors: The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, cosponsored by the Departments of Chemistry and History, the Haggerty Museum of Art, and the Center for the Advancement of the Humanities.

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