



Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi

Under the auspices of

Distinguished Lecture Series (Season 3)

Presents a talk on

Understanding Social Narratives: A Global Perspective

By

Professor Gonzalo Soltero

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Date and Time: April 22, 2021 at 10: 30 am (IST, April

22 at 12:00 am Mexican time). Mode: online

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Meeting number: 184 833 2593 Password: 1234

Moderator: Dr. P. Kumar Mangalam, Dept. of Foreign Languages Studies, CUK



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About the Speaker



Gonzalo Soltero is an author and professor at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in León, Guanajuato, Mexico. He has published five books of fiction and several academic articles and book chapters. His key research at the moment is the role of narratives in the construction of social problems and public policy, such as the War on Drugs, toxic masculinity and justice. As part of a Newton Advanced Fellowship from the British Academy, he recently published a book about conspiracy narratives in Mexico: *Conspiracy Narratives South of the Border. Bad Hombres Do the Twist* (Routledge, 2021).

Abstract

Conspiracy theories are always narrative in nature, telling us about the state of the world and the actors behind such conditions. This narrativity tends to be so enthralling that they have increasingly become the substance of entertainment and even politics. As popularly believed stories that explain the way of the world due to the schemes and actions of dark squadrons, they are sometimes closely related to certain rumours and urban legends that tell the modus operandi of evil men. Conspiracy theories have been addressed before by a number of perspectives, yet seldom have they been as what they essentially are: narratives, stories. By bridging the discussions of these conspiracy narratives, analysing them from a narrative standpoint, this book talk aims to contribute to a better understanding of these tales as well as why people turn to them in different uncertain contexts and how they produce meaning.