

Remembering Socialism, Forgetting Feminism: John F. M. Lawson's "In the Wave of Time"

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This talk analyzes the class and gender politics of John Francisco Moncaleano Lawson's "In the Wave of Time", a sweeping work that mixes history, fiction, and autobiography. Lawson's father, Juan Francisco Moncaleano, and his father's partner, Blanca de Moncaleano, both played a notable role in the Mexican Revolution and in the international anarchist community. As highlighted by Nicolás Kanellos, Clara Lomas, and other scholars, Blanca de Moncaleano's published articles in her "Pluma Roja" and in other radical periodicals stand out for their articulation of feminist anarchism. Critically, while Lawson's voice in "In the Wave of Time" makes passionate appeals for socialism, he criticizes anarchism and shows no indication of any lingering influence from Blanca de Moncaleano's feminism. To the contrary, he expresses investment in rigid and stereotypical gender roles. Given the confounding nature of "In the Wave of Time", I additionally explore what it means to use ambiguous documents and the complex process of crafting historical narrative.

Presented by: UNM
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