Until very recently Mexico was mostly a country of campesinos (farmers), so much so that the 1920 revolution has been considered an agrarian revolution fought to achieve a just redistribution of the land. In this talk I will analyze how the Mesoamerican so-called cult of Tláloc (God of water) dilutes religion into a moral and political economy through a commitment to land and water. In El luto humano (1943), José Revueltas goes back to that commitment and posits it as the undercurrent guiding the Mexican Revolution and the stubborn affirmation of campesinos who chose to remain such against all odds.

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Ivonne del Valle is Associate Professor at U.C. Berkeley. Her research and teaching make connections between the past and the present which try to show the relevance of the colonial period for an understanding of contemporary times. She has written a book and a series of articles on the Jesuits (José de Acosta and Loyola and Jesuits in the northern borderlands of New Spain) as a particularly influential politico-religious order that served modernization and the expansion of the Spanish empire. She was co-director of the Berkeley research group “Mexico and the Rule of Law,” and co-editor of the Política Común issue (Vol. 7, 2015) with the same title. She is currently studying the drainage of the lakes of Mexico City.

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